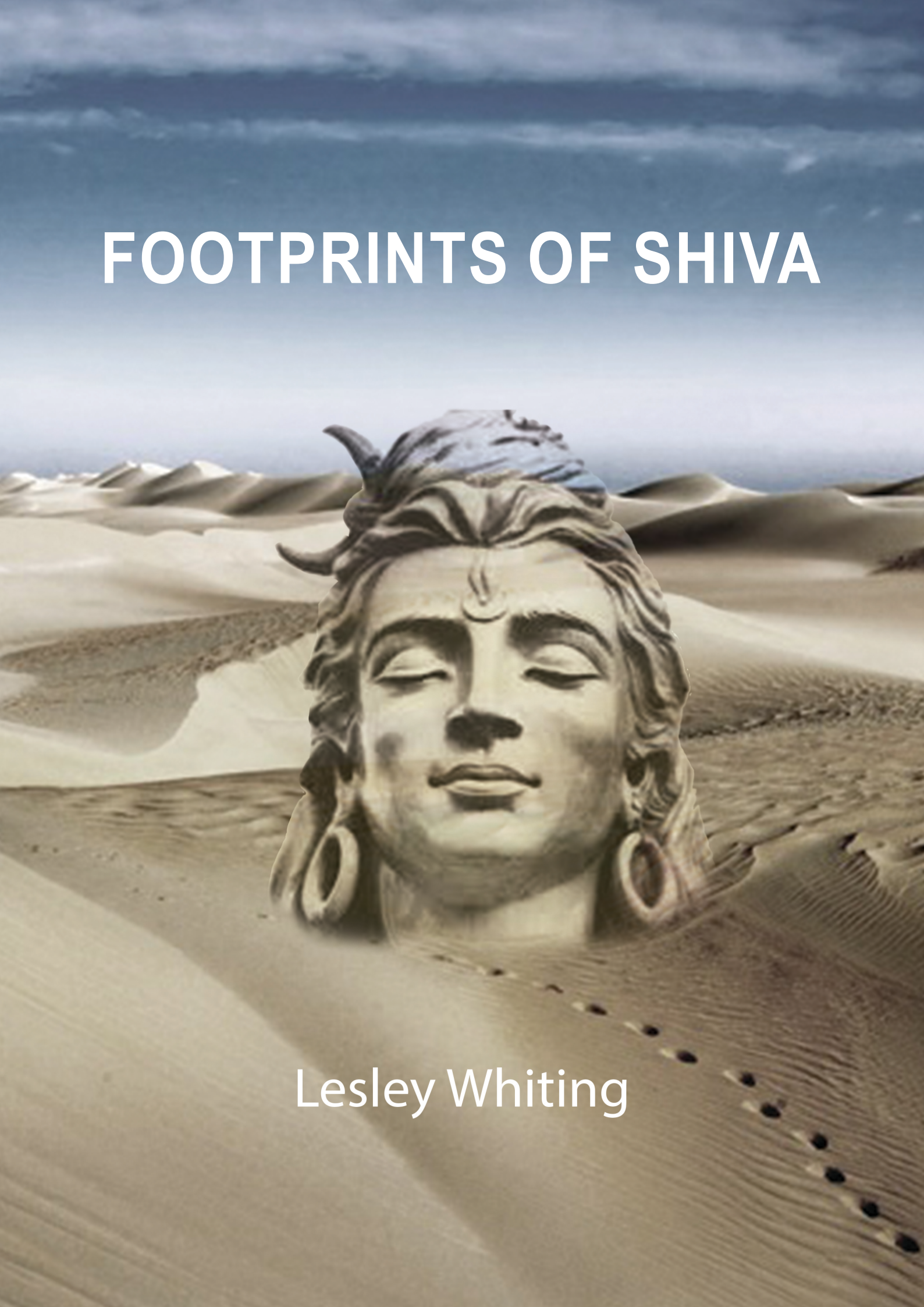
FOOTPRINTS OF SHIVA



Lesley Whiting

Footprints of Shiva

Tracing the life, historical influence and achievements of Shiva, the first Lord of Tantra

A collection of short articles by Lesley Whiting

ANANDA MARGA
GURUKULA
PUBLICATIONS

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Lesley Whiting

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Introduction

The study of pre-history presents obvious challenges due to the absence of written records. We are forced to rely on other clues, such as symbols, linguistics, ancient artifacts and architecture, mythologies and cultural and spiritual hints, to piece together a coherent version of the human story before the written word.

I have long wondered at ancient clues and strange anomalies such as the appearance of the swastika with almost universally positive meaning all over the world, the trident, the staff with intertwined serpents, which so resembles the nadis, cakras and spinal column of the human form, the bull, the solar disc and lunar crescent, the six pointed star being some of them, in otherwise apparently unconnected locations and peoples. Similarly, there are segments of history that we are taught in school that simply defy logic, not to mention odd gaps of knowledge that appear to have been deliberately erased or glossed over in order to present a perfectly Eurocentric Aryan model of history and civilisation. Those silent “gaps” clamour for further investigation.

Great civilisations have invariably been built on a powerful metaphysical and mystical core. This core lies at the heart of a civilisation and blossoms into dynamic movement, propelling its people forward in acts of creation, discovery, advanced knowledge, refined culture and transcendent arts; significantly enabling all round human advancement.

Has there been a common source for the mystical essence of the great civilisations of, for example, India, China, Egypt, the ancient Americas? Or did each spring up in isolation? Shrii Shrii Anandamurti encourage interested persons to study in depth the life and achievements of the historical Shiva, whose presence on Earth 7,000 years ago during the Neolithic period of humanity caused tremendous shifts and waves of change and development which reverberate until this day. Noting that an accurate appraisal of the same has not yet been done, I sensed an implication that the gap in our understanding of the significance of the contributions of Shiva impairs our full understanding of the earliest stages of evolution of human civilisation.

I wondered how far I would get without texts or written record. However clues appeared unmistakably as I persevered with the extraordinary journey I had embarked on. It is far from perfect or exhaustive and there are still much to be explored and uncovered. It is my hope that the results will inspire the reader to marvel at how over eons and pageants of history we are all so intimately linked by a timeless invisible spiritual thread of living knowledge, and to the benevolent sam’kalpa of the world’s first guru, Sadashiva.

Lesley Whiting

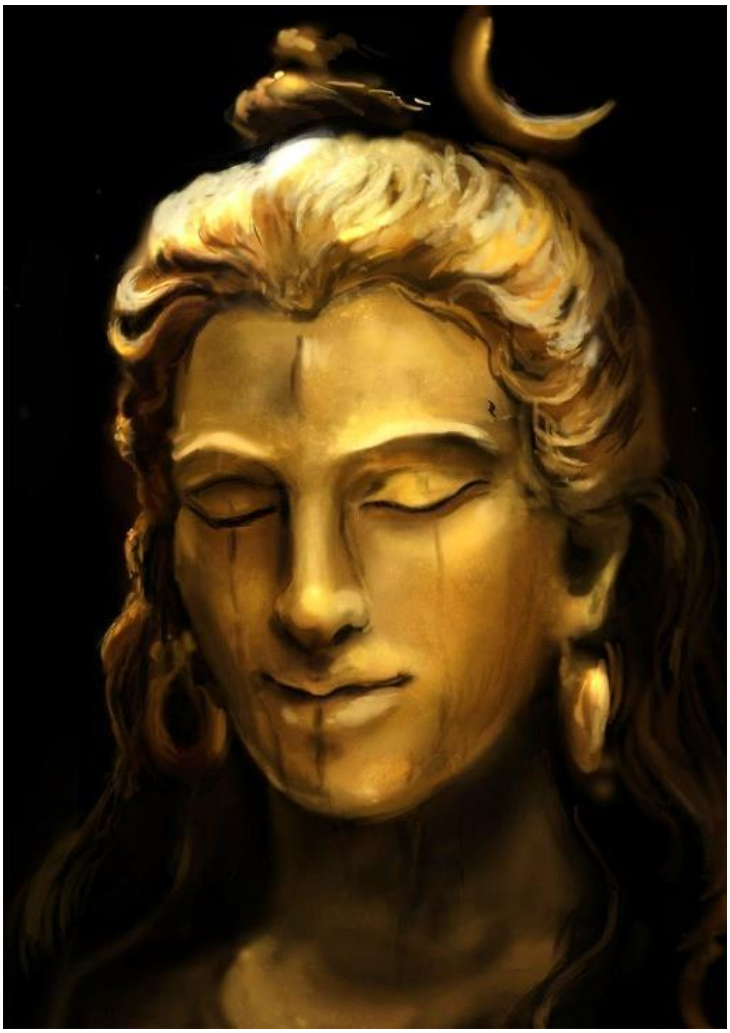
Contents

PART 1 WHO IS SHIVA? 7

- Shiva the First Guru…….....8
- The Lord of Music……..9
- Shiva's Third Eye – The Pineal Gland…… 10
- Yoga Asana……..11
- Lord of Dance……...12
- Science of Mudra…….13
- Tandava as a Spiritual Practice…….14
- Pashupati – Lord of Animals……..15
- The Trishula……..16
- The Marriage of Shiva and Parvati……17
- Shiva the Warrior and His Cosmic Weapon……18
- Shiva and the Gift of Medicine…… 22
- Shiva the Mystery…….24

PART 2 THE UNKNOWN TRAVELLER 26

- Shaivism in the Middle East…….. 28
- The Assyrians…….. 30
- Harran, Turkey and the Sabeans……..31
- Pre-Islamic Saudi Arabia……33
- Ancient Egypt – Tehuti the Alchemist and Khemet……36
- Petra, Jordan……40
- The Dravidians and Shaivism……... 43
- Tantra, Matriarchy and the Worship of the Goddess……..45
- Basque…….. 46
- Guanche……...50
- The Etruscan Civilisation……54
- Fulani……61
- The Americas and Mayan Civilisation…… 63
- China and South East Asia…….. 67
- A Final Word……... 70

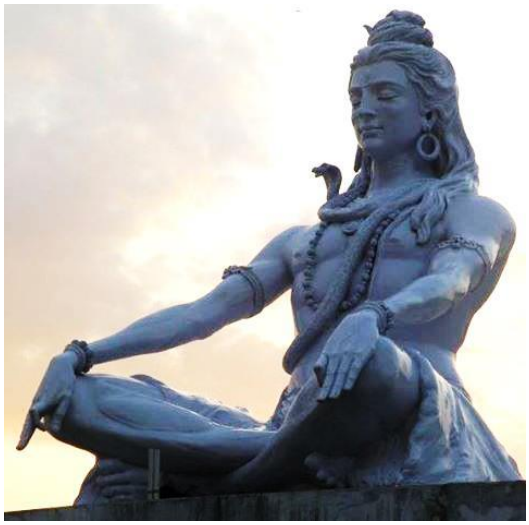


"*Sadashiva...who by his holy birth, consecrated,as it were, each and every dust particle of this earth and utilised his whole life for the sole purpose of advancing universal welfare. Remember, I have not said "human welfare", because in our world, not only are there humans, there are also birds and animals, trees and plants. Shiva belongs to all; and for living beings He gave His all....so Sadashiva means “One whose only vow of existence is to promote the all-round welfare of all living beings"*

Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

PART 1

WHO IS SHIVA?



Far back in dark antiquity, 7,000 years ago, at the beginnings of civilisation, Shiva was born. The mysterious figure of Shiva is best known as the ascetic, the yogi, the father of the science of Yoga. He lived a life of simplicity and perfect self-control, indifferent to worldly status, fame or wealth, or the passions and appetites of the senses.

His dwelling place was Mount Kailash in the Himalayan Range, and in the profound silence and solitude of those majestic mountain heights he spend much time in deep meditation on the Infinite, his mind immersed within the blissful, transcendent awareness of Cosmic Consciousness.

Shiva was the first to systematize Tantra Yoga and is considered the first Teacher of Yoga. In this role he shattered all the previous rules on mystical teachings, as prior to Shiva's time, neither women or the lower castes in India were permitted to study the Vedas – the ancient body of knowledge which spanned from sublime philosophy, to mathematics, medicine, science and astronomy.

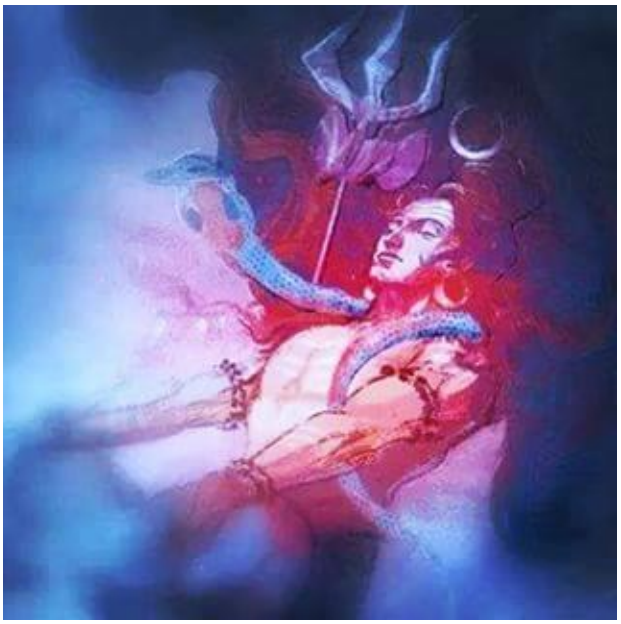
Shiva broke all the rules by imparting the enduring mystical teachings of Tantra Yoga to the local tribal people of the area and to women. The Aryan dominated Brahmin castes, labelled Shiva's followers "ghosts" or "ghouls". Indeed this is how he is frequently depicted in art works. In fact, these "ghosts" were none but the neglected lower caste people, with their sunken cheeks, malnourished and overworked bodies and unkempt hair, who adored Shiva for having acknowledged the value of their lives by imparting sacred knowledge of the yogic teachings to them.

He taught them the importance of following a code of morality, yogic practices and medicines to remove their diseases, strengthen their nerves and glands and improve

the health and vitality of their bodies, as well as pranayama – the science of breath control- to improve their vitality and brain functions. He also taught them dharana and dhyana– the practices of deep concentration and meditation leading to expanded awareness and the activation of their latent potentials, which had never previously seen the light of day.

The practical teachings of Shiva elevated them from their semi-human status, wherein they were pre-occupied with fulfilling their basic needs and instincts, (not least the instinct of survival in a harsh environment), to the status of dignified, responsible human beings. He removed the dark veils of ignorance and superstition from their minds and gave them the impetus and inspiration to move forward on the path of human evolution.

Shiva the First Guru



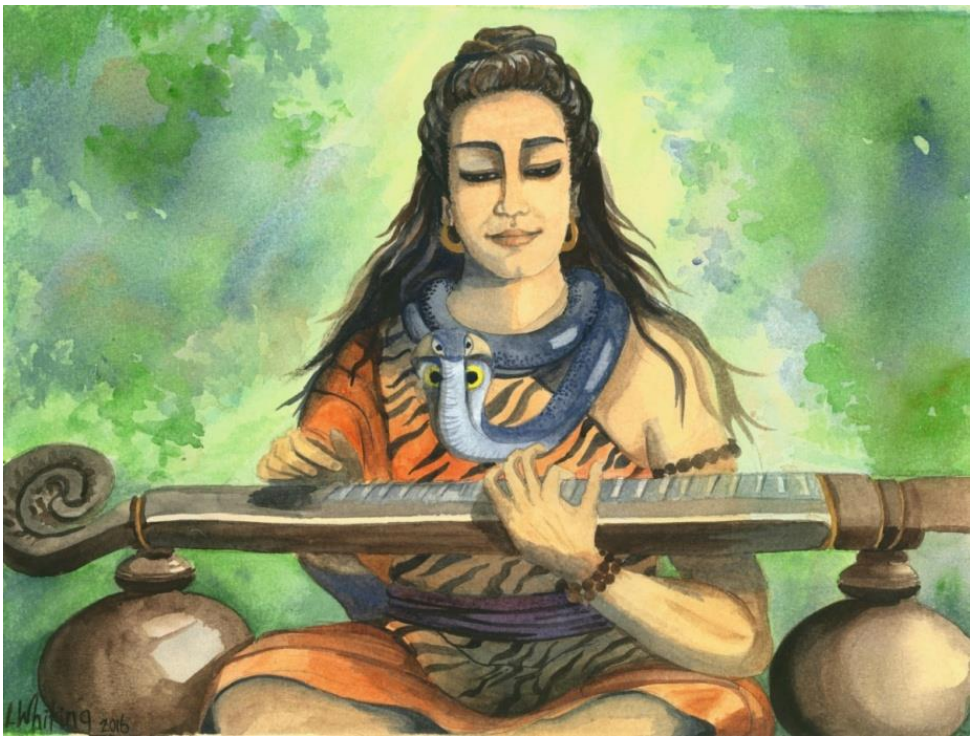
The science of yoga is far more that the physical postures that have beenpopularised in the West. The science of Yoga is in fact the science for the evolution of the entire physical, energetic, mental, emotional and spiritual levels of human existence.

Shiva lived part of his life as an ascetic amidst the Himalayan mountain range, lost to the world in deep meditation and contemplation. However he could not distance himself from the sufferings of the humans and animals, their distress and ignorance. Therefore, out of compassions, Shiva took a samkalpa (vow) to send forth this knowledge into the world to activate transformative changes in human structure and mentality, by teaching the practices of Tantra to some selected rishis (enlightened sages) and sending them forth into the world to carry the teachings into the corners of the Earth. Moreover, Shiva himself also left India at some point and carried this knowledge from place to place as he wandered across the planet.

This was not in the form of philosophy but of practical techniques and practises whereby the ordinary human could purify, energise and transform themselves, manifest their highest potentials and attain Self-realisation.

Part of the teachings of Tantra also come to us in the form of the Agama&Nigama Shastras, the profound dialogue between Shiva and Parvati who became his spouse after he entered the role of a householder.These essential practises have always been an oral tradition, passed down from worthy Guru to worthy disciple in secrecy so that they would not be altered or commercialized.

Lord of Music



In Shiva's time people did not play music. There were no musical instruments besides the blowing of horns and beating of drums to celebrate significant occasions.

Shiva developed the first musical scale, based on sounds which have resonance with the sound frequencies of the universe. This musical scale of seven notes is until today known as the surasaptaka. Shiva also developed the world’s first stringed instrument, the viina.

Without the aesthetic beauty and higher sentiments evoked by music and art, life is reduced to a struggle for survival defined by base instincts. Through the efforts of Shiva the art of music was born. With the introduction of music and dance, human life began an evolutionary transformation, from the level of purely physical existence, to the awakening of the deeper longings, hopes and joys of the human spirit.

The system of music created by Shiva was intended to awaken the sublime sense of the mystical, as well as a practical vibrational science to aid in the journey of the soul towards the Divine.

Shiva's Third Eye – The Pineal Gland

In attempting to differentiate the mythological stories of Shiva from the authentic facts, we frequently come across references to Shiva's Third Eye. Many stories referring to his third eye, allude to the "all-knowing eye" - his unlimited knowledge of the past, present and future. Some may dismiss this as a fanciful idea or a quaint mythology. However, the third eye reference was the way that ordinary people attempted to explain an actual phenomenon that they were unable to explain in more scientific terms.

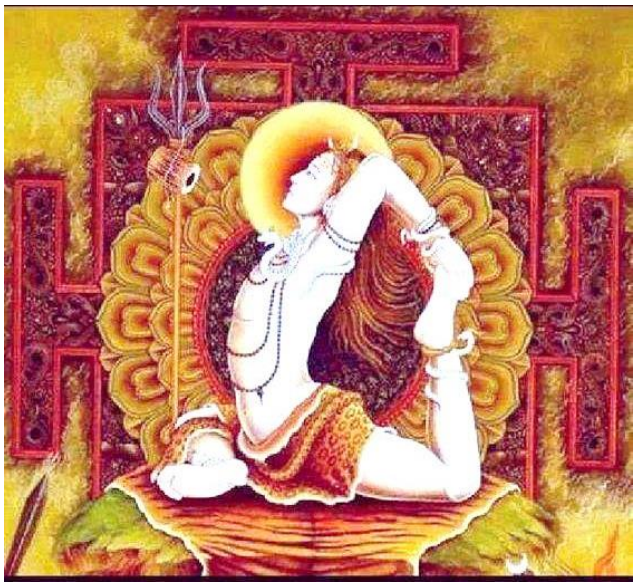
We still have a relatively limited idea about the workings of the endocrine gland system and its bearing on an individual's physical as well as psycho-emotional make up. Science is ignorant about the workings of the tiny pineal gland located in the centre of the brain, and many versed in medical science will admit, that beyond regulation of circadian rhythms of the body according to light and darkness, the pineal gland remains a mystery. It was not a mystery to Shiva, whose pineal gland was both fully developed and activated.

In fact the tiny pineal gland, named by Descartes as "the seat of the Soul" secretes a hormone which enables us to transcend the physical limits of the ego self and experience a state of blissful and infinitely expanded awareness. In other words, it is the brains own neurochemistry (DMT) that provides the physical gateway to access the multidimensional state and experience of the Divine. Shiva's state of divine intoxication was due to the secretion of this hormone "divine nectar". This has been misrepresented by people, who, unable to conceive of such a profound, mystical and transcendent state, assumed that he was smoking hashish, which was not the case.

Once the boundaries of ego are dissolved, the state of consciousness accessed is beyond the limits of linear time, and thus allows access to knowledge of past, present and future. It may be awakened and developed though bringing the body and mind to a higher vibratory rate. This requires a number of lifestyle adjustments and the adoption of yogic practices conducive to such an awakening.

Such practices would include sonic resonance of the pineal. This is achieved by repetition of subtle sounds called mantra (see cymatics). Yogic asanas and mudras which gently massage the pineal and increase blood circulation to the brain. Pranayama or breath control (under the guidance of a teacher) floods it with oxygen. In addition pure diet and purification of the mind through focused meditation are essential, as toxicity of the body and impure thoughts dominated by desires, greed, anger or jealousy immediately destroy the pineal hormone in the bloodstream.

Yoga Asana

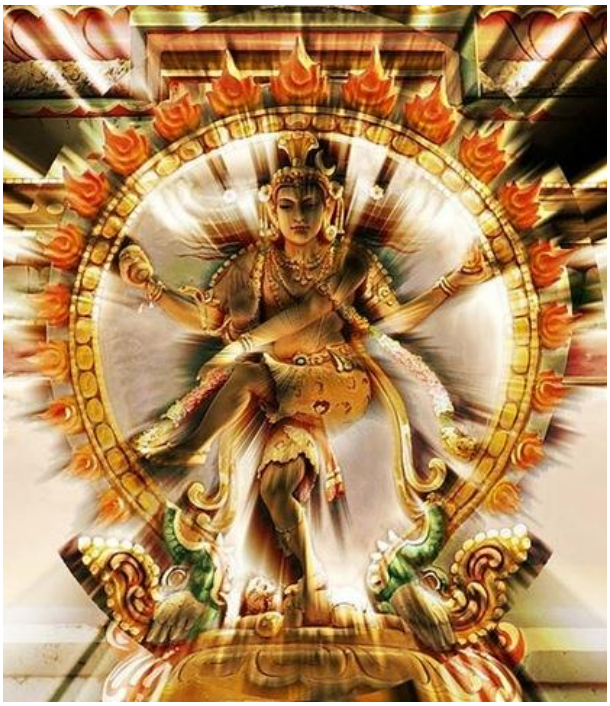


Asanas or Yoga posturesare part of the ancient science of Tantra, systematized by Lord Shiva around 7,000 years ago.They form a coherent system for promoting all round health. Through daily practise the body becomes a flexible, agile yet powerful vehicle for inner awakening and development of latent potentials. When performed with focus and full awareness, the asanas align all aspects of our being, physical, mental emotional with the spirit.

Asanas affect every aspect of the physique; they are not only for stretching and toning muscles. They work directly on the endocrine gland system, which in turn profoundly affecting our moods and psycho- emotional tendencies, helping us to balance or erase entrenched negative thought and behavior patterns and transform them into constructive and creative expressions. They also relax and tone muscles, improve circulation, help the circulation and drainage of lymph, limber the joints, massage the internal organs and focus the mind.

Each asana is a unique celebration of the living temple of the body. They entail slow rhythmic and controlled movement and deep breathing, which oxygenates the system, brings focus and deep concentration and brings the practitioner into the joy of living fully in the present moment.

Lord of Dance



In the time of Shiva, there was no developed or aesthetic dance form. In times of great happiness or sorrow, to celebrate a victory, ensure fertility, or to propitiate the gods, people expressed their joys, pride, longings, sorrow by drumming and random, rhythmic movements, mostly of the legs and torso. It was a primitive expression and emotional release in shared moments of celebration or worship.

Observing the longings of people to express themselves through movement, Shiva developed a system of dance using graceful rhythmic movements, engaging the arms and hands. Such movements, known as mudras, affected the energy channels and glands of the body in certain ways, inspiring subtle thoughts and sentiments, imparting aesthetic grace and having an uplifting and beneficial effect on the dancer and the audience. Thus dance as an art form was born. Indian dance is deeply influenced by the spiritual and philosophical origins and undercurrents of the culture.
Watching authentic classical Indian dance today, it is difficult not to be impressed by the ways that the dancer uses the entire body, including the head, the eyes and the complex and elegant mudras.

It is not an overstatement to say that it is probably the most developed and complex of dance forms and disciplines in the world. The use of hand gestures in dance form is not much in evidence outside of Asia.

Science of Mudra

The hands have great power. We use them to shape our world. Most of our work is carried out by our hands, as are the words we write, the works of fine art we create, the music we play. We apply the gift of touch to heal, to comfort and to convey love. The hands have more links to the brain than other organs in the body.

Along with our nervous system we also have a pranic or vital energy system or etheric body consisting of thousands of streams or channels of energy. Mudras are the conscious formation of hand gestures, acknowledging the ability of the hands to direct energy. They are connected to the subtle streams and channels of energy in the body, environment and the cosmos. This explains the use of the hands in direct-contact healing arts such as Reikii.

Mudras have three main uses:

1. **Mudras in Yoga** – to channel and direct higher energies in the body and mind, stimulating the flow of energy in certain glands and organs, thus activating previously dormant potentials while taming and quieting those that disturb and distract.
2. **Mudras in Ritual** - where they serve the purpose of offering, communicating with deity and or receiving Grace
3**. Mudras in dance and drama –** where they convey subtle ideas, feelings and sentiments, both in the worldly sense of conveying significant moments in human life and relationships, as well as exploring and describing the relationship with the Divine.

Additionally, Mudras may be used by highly evolved personalities who have the power of command of Prana or vital life force impart that sacred energy to awaken the higher potentials of a person or to remove obstacles from his/her path in life.

Thus, in Indian dance, the feet set the rhythm, while the joints are viewed as the initiators and shapers of form. Mudra originates from the articulation of the wrist. Mudra can be incorporated into the practice of yoga and meditation with various and specific psychological, physical and spiritual benefits.

Thus, with both Shiva's Tandava dance of Cosmic creation and destruction, and the creation of an enduring and timeless system of dance that conveys an entire range of emotions and sentiments, both human and divine, it is not an overstatement to say that Shiva developed an aesthetic, elegant art form which activated the higher tastes, sentiments and refined potentials of the human mind thereby giving rise to a new and higher order of expression in human culture.

Sources: Namah Shivah Shantaya - Shrii Shrii Anandamurti
Mudras of India - Cain Caroll

Tandava as a Spiritual Practice

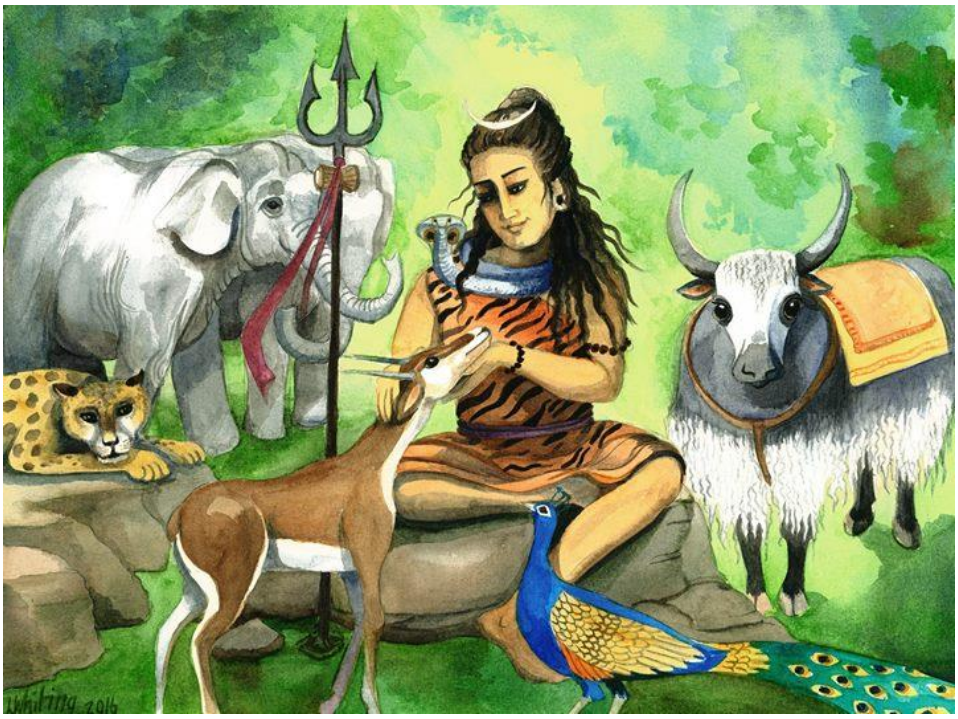
Tandava in its simplest form may be performed as a daily by men engaged in transformative spiritual practice with certain specific physical and psychological benefits

The Tandava dance, dynamic, powerful and vigorous, is essentially a masculine dance, as it was created by Shiva with the aim of stimulating and transmuting the endocrine secretions of the male body in such a way as to break the bondages of fear and encourage manliness, courage, confidence and a fearless warrior spirit in men.

The rhythmic, jumping movements in Tandava have great benefit in stimulating blood and lymph circulatory systems, as well as triggering hormonal release. The vibrational wave generated by the rhythm is also considered an exercise for the brain, flooding the entire brain cells with oxygen, thus preventing the aging of cells which lead to degeneration of memory and mental capacity

In Tandava, the dancer holds his hands at a 90 degree angle from the ground, with a symbol of life in the right hand, and a symbol of death in the left. The dancer then identifies as the transcendent soul, dancing joyfully and fearlessly in and out of life and death, between the manifest and unmanifest worlds with perfect balance, courage, imbued with divine strength and energy. Accurate instruction on how to perform Tandava can be given by a qualified teacher of Tantra.

Pashupati Shiva–Lord of Animals



At the time when Shiva lived, around 5,000 BCE, animals were considered either prey to be hunted and eaten – such as deer, wild pigs, birds, rabbits and buffalo, or predator, wild tigers, leopards, wolves etc. which were to be feared and killed for protection.

Those that escaped either of the fore mentioned fates, were potential victims of animal sacrifice, widely practiced in religious ceremonies of that time, in the inexplicable belief that still persists in some places today, that a creator god finds pleasure in, and even rewards, the copious spilling of blood of its creations.

People did not consider that animals had any existential value, aside from a food source or a way to propitiate or bribe the gods. We can fairly safely assume, therefore that most animals that came in contact with humans, did not long survive the encounter.

Shiva shifted this trend. Shiva's loving affection and compassion extended to all living beings, as to him, they were all manifestations of the same Universal consciousness. He valued and respected their lives, giving them intrinsic, existential value, not only for their utility value to humans. Intuitively, they felt safety and sanctuary in his presence and therefore approached Shiva for shelter, which he granted them. Shiva and his followers did not consume animal flesh, thus had no need to hunt wild creatures.

Moreover, Shiva taught his followers the yogic principle of Ahimsa – the principle of living not only free from any intent to harm other beings, but living with the intent and commitment to serve and protect the innocent. Except in the extreme case of the

necessity of protection of someone's life against an animal attacking, they did not raise any weapon against any creature.

Shiva himself is usually depicted with a cobra around his neck, a deadly, venomous snake, which never used its poisonous bite against him. He was also accompanied by his loyal, sturdy and powerful bull, the Himalayan yak, with which he was able to make long and arduous journeys.

Therefore Shiva is well known as Pashupati - Lord or Master of animals.

The Trishula

Shiva is almost always shown carrying a Trishula. Proper understanding involves acknowledging multiple layers of symbolism.

The Trishula is both a weapon, but also a symbol of higher consciousness.It signifies the protection of the three worlds from harm; the physical, psychic and spiritual worlds.

It also signifies the three energies at work in the universe. These are *tamas*, the static force of inertia, low density and the tendency toward matter, darkness, inertia. *Rajas,* the dynamic, throbbing, force of restless movement and change. These are represented by the right and left prongs. The central prong, which is taller than the others is the *Sattva*, the energy of balance, purity and the upwards tendency of spirit toward liberation,appearing in the middle where it maintains balance between tamas and rajas.

In its spiritual sense the Trishula appears to correspond with the subtle energies of the human form, ida and pingala, two subtle energy currents flowing up the spine and ending at the region of the third eye, the pituatary gland, the seat of Cosmic Consciousness in the body. The shaft of the Trishula is the sushumna, the path that the

kundalinii energy must take in order to reach the pineal gland to attain the blissful state of Divine Union with the Supreme Consciousness.

The Trishula in the hand of Shiva constantly reminds us that our life’s goal is not to be found in the pursuit of material happiness but in the effort for Eternal joy of Self-realisation through spiritual practice and self-discipline and service to all beings.

Marriage of Shiva

Prior to Shiva's time, before 7,000 years, it was difficult to know who was the father of a child. A loose arrangement of marriage existed, but was a matter of tribal alliances, and benefits, not of mutual love and responsibility. Thus the entire burden of child rearing was placed on the mothers who would raise the child until the birth of the next infant. When the next child came, the preceding ones were often neglected and had to struggle in a harsh environment for their survival without the love and affection of a family environment. The men of that era did not feel responsible for the children they had fathered.

In this sense, the marriage of Shiva to Parvati brought about a major shift in the mentality of people. He was, in this sense, the first man to take responsibility for the welfare and well-being of his spouse in addition to taking long term responsibility for the upbringing of their children. By his example and at his insistence, he encouraged his followers to do the same. Thus the ideal of marriage as a mutual partnership of love and responsibility was born.

Shiva the Warrior and His Cosmic Weapon

Travelling back 7,000 years, to the time of Shiva, we find it was a period of great turmoil in India. The invading Aryans were arriving from Central Asia in waves. A light-skinned, war-loving race; they were proud and arrogant, perceiving themselves as “gods” compared to the darker skinned indigenous Dravidians, who they perceived as an “inferior” race, and who they eventually relegated to the lowest or “untouchable” caste within the Aryans caste system.

The indigenous Austric, Mongolian and Dravidian people were mostly peace-loving communities who lived in settlements and cultivated their land. They were unprepared for the arrival of with the skilled and well-armed Aryan warriors.

The Aryans had already brought with them the Vedic scriptures which embodied the entire range of human knowledge at that time, and the pantheon of Vedic “gods” such as Indra, god of energy, Agni, god of fire etc. Their systems of worship were highly ritualistic, involved appeasement of “gods”, with animal sacrifices, blood and offerings.

With the coming of the Aryans, women lost their previous status and were forbidden to study or recite the Vedas, which was the entire body of human knowledge of that era. Gradually their status was reduced to that of commodities, or objects of enjoyment. They were forced into a state of ignorant servitude along with the indigenous people of India. The Aryans brought with them their caste system, assuming for themselves the Brahmin caste – the highest, wealthy, educated and priestly class, and the non-Aryans

were relegated to lower castes according to their usefulness in any sector of society. Thus the society was being rapidly transformed into a cruel master/slave paradigm.

Not only the native people of India, but also the Asuras were facing grave problems from the Aryans. The Asuras were not, as mythology would have it, ugly demons with distorted features, but the Assyrian people who in that time inhabited the area we now know as Iraq.

The Assyrian people would not accept anything of the Aryan culture or religion and were fiercely opposed to it. For this reason the Aryans wanted to exterminate the Assyrians completely. So, the Assyrian people also approached Shiva for help and he readily granted it.
People lived in chaotic and violent times. For this reason it was not enough for Shiva to remain solely the ascetic and benevolent yogi, remote from the struggle of the people. He had to also assume the role of fierce warrior in order to protect the innocent, to destroy the corrupt and immoral who in the name of race, caste and religion were tying the people minds with endless dogmas, enslaving them, while pursuing the path of unbridled sense gratification for themselves at the cost of the innocent and helpless. Thus Shiva is known as Shubhavajradhara – the fierce but compassionate wielder of the Vajra or thunderbolt for the protection of righteousness and the welfare of all. Within Shiva, people found a perfect balance of tenderness, compassion and severity. Shiva the compassionate was also the ferocious Shiva, the destroyer of demons.

Shiva's Cosmic Weapon

Vajra: A kind of powerful weapon invented and used by Shiva.

*“He used this weapon to protect the honest and virtuous people as well as innocent birds and animals, and to strike at the sinful, violent and arrogant antisocial elements. Shiva was very restrained and self-possessed in all spheres of life; He would use His weapon only on rare occasions. From a perusal of history we learn that he never used this weapon against any virtuous person. Human beings as well as animals in trouble used to approach Shiva for security; Shiva would protect them and admonish their enemies to move along the path of righteousness. By repeated persuasion He tried to correct their defects. Only against those who refused to correct their ways and, on the contrary, tried to further their own self-interest by opposing Shiva, did He use this weapon. Since it was used to promote the welfare of all living beings it was rightly called shubhavajra (“the thunderbolt of welfare”).*Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

Shiva and His cosmic weapon - mythology or unknown science?

The beautiful Hubble photos of the Cosmos show nebulae and their clouds and filaments of electronically charged gases are in fact tremendous releases of plasma – the charged electrical particles released due to the “z-pinch” at the centre of the formation, cause by the formation of magnetic fields which causes compression and violent release.

What is plasma? Once we considered that the space between the planets and stars was simply empty void. Now, plasma physics and the electric universe theory has shown that in fact we exist in a living ocean of charged electric particles in constant movement -a cosmic ocean of energy.

The directed movement of charged particles along any kind of pole or filament moves in a spiraling movement and creates an excitation or heating, and the formation of magnetic fields which compress and can cause the “z pinch”, and a tremendous release of energy or plasma which moves in lightening like filaments.
Is it simply a coincidence that the vajra design demonstrates precisely and scientifically the phenomena of energy release in a thunderbolt and other cosmic phenomena? If the ancients knew this, how come it took us so long to figure it out? The mystery is that most of us, except plasma physicists, have never seen such a phenomena with our eyes. So how was this phenomena known, recorded in scripture (Rg Veda) and obviously to some extent understood and possibly utilised 7,000 years ago?

Wallace Thornhall, in his Electric Universe theory postulates that the ancient skies were likely far more dramatic and violent than the skies of today, and people actually saw such electrical phenomena during severe storms which was traumatically engraved on the minds of people with fear and terror, thus became part of the collective psyche. This is one possible scenario. In this case the vajra would have a symbolic function and the use of the weapon depending on the force used in throwing it would probably have been to stun or possibly render unconscious a particular individual enemy.

Did the ancient have access to a different order of knowledge? Was physics and metaphysics blended in ways we cannot fathom today in our fragmented world?

Did then Shiva the first Yogi, and Tantric Master, develop the power, through his Yogic practices of concentrating Prana (bio-plasma) in the body and the power of expanding,

directing and transmitting it at will? If so, was the vajra a kind of transmitter of electrical lightening-like energy, (plasma) that, though we are told he rarely used it, was fatal once released?

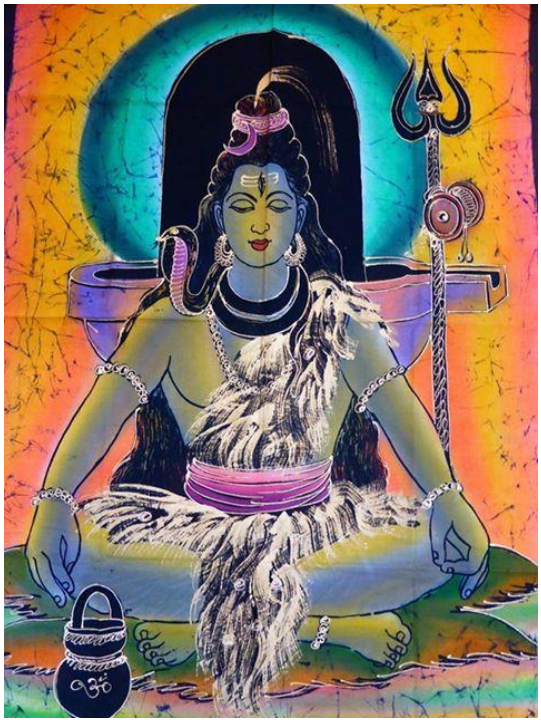
Was the Vajra purely a symbol of a thunderbolt? Or is it something more? Did the ancients have knowledge of how to harness and use free energy? Something we are just discovering now...7,000 years later? If so, how did they have such advanced knowledge at that time? And how did we lose it?

What if Shiva the renunciate, utterly indifferent to the appetites of the senses, yogi and the first master of Tantra, through his disciplined life and intense spiritual practices has gained enormous power to control, harness and direct energy? What if he could also activate or command those forces in nature, perhaps with the use of a celestial weapon to protect the innocent who came to him for shelter? Within Shiva, people found the perfect balance of tenderness, compassion and severity. Shiva is known and will be remembered as Shubhavajradhara, the benevolent wielder of the thunderbolt, for the protection of righteousness and the welfare of all. Shiva the compassionate was also the Shiva the Destroyer of Demons

"An entity which is boundless or unbarred is called nikhila or akhila. In different spheres of life, in different realms of thought, people became frightened by many things. Just as wild animals are always afraid of their various enemies, in the past, human life was also filled with fears. For the human beings of today the degree of fear in the physical sphere has much decreased; but in the psychic world of thought the degree of fear has greatly increased. Today people are not so afraid of smaller weapons: indeed, there is greater security of life now. But the fear of large weapons such as atomic bombs has increased. Shiva made earnest and constant efforts to save human beings as well as animals from all sorts of fear: He developed a science of medicine to save them from the scourge of disease; He invented various types of weapons to liberate them from the fear of their enemies; He evolved various branches of knowledge to remove their psychic fears; and He introduced Tantra Yoga to remove their spiritual fears. Moreover, He gave shelter to animals, as well; He taught the human beings to protect and nurture animals and plants. Thus, about Him it has been said, Nikhilabhayaharam ["the one who removes the boundless fears of the universe"]." Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

"*Now, the question remains: in the night of blinding darkness, do humans alone aspire to feel the soothing touch of light? No, all want it. All seek to grow out of the oblivion of existential darkness, into the warmth of life, to experience the final fulfillment of their life's urges. Up until today, human beings have not made a proper appraisal of this great personality who gave human beings their first opportunity to experience the sweet joy of fulfillment of all their longings. No-one has discussed Him much up until now. Why people failed to make this appraisal is irrelevant today. It is the firm duty of every individual to know and evaluate the exact contribution of Shiva and in this process we cannot ignore the personality Himself"* Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

Shiva and the Gift of Medicine



Shiva is often mentioned as one who frequented the cemeteries and cremation grounds. As strange as this sounds to some, the essence of Tantra is the direct confrontation and shattering of all the fetters and bondages that keep one in a state of fear and limitation, thus unable to fully realise the Infinite nature of the self and our oneness with Cosmic Consciousness. Much of human fear revolves around loss and death and the letting go of attachments, illusions. The fear of death, aloneness, ghosts, the occult, superstitions and the supernatural, are the by-products of fear and terror of the great unknown. Thus it was considered a favourite place for meditation for Tantriks as the direct confrontation and overcoming of fears ensured rapidly accelerated spiritual evolution.

However, perhaps there was another reason for Shiva and his disciples to enter the burial grounds. Imagine at 7,000 years ago there was no developed system of medicine, or even deep knowledge of the human body, no written word, no charts or pictures to explain the inner workings of the body.

Though the Vedas had taught Ayurvedic medicine before the time of Shiva, when the Aryans migrated to India, they refused to entertain the idea of dissection and examination of the dead body for reasons stated below, and the advancement of medical knowledge was halted for this reason.

Shiva, however continued to educate his followers about the internal anatomy of the human body, dissection, surgery and stitching, using the corpses collected in the cemetery. Thus his followers were able to learn about the body organs and their functions, how to perform surgery as well as the various plant based cures, and the medical science continued to advance.

This medical knowledge advanced and systematised by Shiva was called Vaedyak Shastra.

" When wild animals become sick, they rub their bodies against certain trees and plants to cure their ailments. This shows that all living beings are more or less acquainted with some types of medicine. Before Shiva, áyurveda [the Vedic school of medicine] was known to the people. ...áyurveda was also in existence in India before Shiva's time. But it had not developed as a systematic school of medicine. It was simply a collection of substances whose medicinal value was discovered accidentally. These substances... definitely have great medicinal value, but it was necessary to systematize them…

…Shiva provided it with a definite form, and it became popularly known as vaedyak shástra [Tantra-oriented medicine]. You should note that I am not using the term áyurveda in the sense of vaedyak shástra."

"The Aryans who migrated to India were full of vanity and highly egotistic. They not only declared the indigenous population of India to be Shúdras, but also refused to accept them into their society; they declared them to be "pariahs" or "untouchables.

"When this was the social condition, how could the science of dissection continue? The non-Aryans could not touch the dead bodies of the Aryans because then the corpses would lose their caste! This superstition has persisted even to this day; it is not altogether non-existent even now."

"For the purpose of dissection, normally dead bodies are collected from the cremation ground, and obviously it is not possible to know the caste of those corpses. Perhaps the body may be of an Antyaja Shúdra or an Anácarańiiya Shúdra – not all dead bodies are of high-caste people. Hence dissection was impossible, and medical science could not advance."

"Shiva was free from all these superstitions of casteism and untouchability, so He could easily propagate the science of dissection. Thus His science of vaedyak shástra advanced significantly in all those regions where caste distinctions were not very rigid, and where simultaneously the influence of Shiva was great, vaedyak shástra made remarkable progress, but those who practised it were treated as inferior by those Aryans who had migrated to India from outside."

"So Shiva reorganized the whole vaedyak shástra 'and gave it a systematic form. This not only immensely benefited India, but later also brought about significant improvements in the alchemy, the alchemistry and the medico-chemistry of Central Asia. This was no ordinary achievement." Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

Shiva – the Mystery

Shiva has been portrayed in many, sometimes paradoxical and seemingly contradictory roles. At once, a deity, a mythological figure, the creator and destroyer of the universe and a historical human being. At once, both the detached and aloof renunciate, and the loving husband and father. At once, both the fearsome warrior Rudra, the destroyer with his dreaded vajra thunderbolt, as well as the tender hearted protector of life, staunch supporter of the downtrodden and outcaste people, "untouchables", and in whom even animals sought and were granted sanctuary. Below are brief excerpts of a discourse by Tantric Master Shrii Shrii Anandamurti on this topic:

"…Now to materialize any principle or ideology, one requires firmness, especially those who provide leadership to society, those who are the pioneers, the vanguard of a new movement. "We must keep the goal fixed before us, and keep moving towards the goal. We shall never deviate from our goal, whatever the obstacles or hindrances in the way. Once we start moving, we shall never stop or look back."

In this world, those people who do not start any activity for fear of opposition, are the lowest category of human beings. Those who start an activity but, when confronted with mighty obstacles, give it up out of fear, are the middle category. And those who start the activity and, when faced with obstacles at every step, defy and demolish them and move steadily towards their goal, are the highest category. They alone can achieve something substantial in this world.

Shiva was such a person. So He was severe – had He been lacking severity, He could not have accomplished so many noble deeds. But was He severe in every respect? As far as His ideology was concerned, He was severe – very, very severe. But in His external behaviour, in His dealings with people, He was very tender and soft-hearted. Before the advent of Shiva, the people of this world had never seen such a perfect blending of severity and tenderness combined in one person. Thus all people, out of deep reverence, accepted His superiority."

"You are tender and severe,
Holding your rudraviiṅá
You are immersed in the Ocean of Peace,
You are above all feelings of gain and loss.
You are uninvolved,
You are immersed in the flow of bliss."

(Translation of Bengali Poem)

Shiva's tenderness is proverbial…but the same tender-hearted Shiva was severe also; and so He could show a new path to the world – an act for which the people of today and of the future also, will be eternally grateful…

PART 2

THE UNKNOWN TRAVELLER

"Considering His unique role in building human culture and civilisation, this culture and civilisation cannot stand without Him (Shiva). So to write history in the true sense of the term, for the sake of human society at present and in the distant future as well, Shiva cannot be neglected". Shrii Shrii Anandmurti

"It very well may come to pass in the near future that those concerned with truth will wrestle primarily with history rather than science. The obvious reason for this is that, in the words of Dr. Wilfred Cantwell Smith, author of Theology and the World's Religious History, "Humanity is more important than things. The truth about humanity is of a higher order than the truth about things."

It is known that Shiva himself left India at some point in his life and travelled widely, stopping in various locations where He taught and spread mystical knowledge and practices to worthy disciples. The wandering sannyasis and Kapalikas who were His devoted followers and missionaries also travelled widely, spreading the knowledge and initiating worthy truth seekers into the practices of Tantra. We also know that later, over periods spanning thousands of years, successive generations of His followers traversed much of the world, transporting their merchandise along the ancient trade routes, leaving behind lasting imprint of their Shaivite culture, practices, philosophy, Tantric occult mystical knowledge, architecture and artifacts, which would undergo metamorphosis with the passage of time, yet would in most cases retain its undiluted essence.

Key to proper understanding this is the fact that that India as we know it today was not confined to its current borders, but in fact was part of a much wider geographical area. Prior to the emergence of the Abrahamic religions, both the Vedic influence was also still strongly present in the region as well as a pervasive influence of Kashmir Shaivite Tantra, which had spread not only over the Arabian peninsula and the Mediterranean region, but extended into China and later was carried by the Phoenician seafarers to ancient Greece and Rome, the Iberian Peninsula and eventually to South America where it lies at the heart of the Mayan civilisation.

Stories and myths of an "Unknown Traveller" bearing gifts of knowledge, sciences and arts, exist at the heart of major civilizations, and at those locations, mysticism, initiation, philosophy, alchemy, cosmology, medicine, ethics, mathematics, architecture and the

fine arts all flourished. Many of those locations became great centres of learning and wisdom and which indeed lie at the pulsing heart of great civilisations. At their core, the virtually identical body of supramundane, mystical knowledge and practice exists, though due to the passage of time, much has been eroded, distorted or lost. Much evidence can also be traced through the etymology of words, with some of the most striking and virtually irrefutable resemblances being found in comparing Sanskrit with the ancient Semitic languages, and searching though the isolated “pockets of language” unrelated to neighbouring countries which provide some quite astonishing links to ancient Tamil or Dravidian.

In the following articles, three names appear repeatedly as the source of this fountain of mystical and empirical knowledge: Thoth, Tehuti and Hermes Trismegistus. Are these three distinct personalities? Or are they three names attributed over the course of thousands of years and by different civilisations and peoples to one revered personality? Knowing as we do that the peoples of India had migrated across central Asia in waves, is it possible to assert that personality is one and the same as Lord Shiva, the first spiritual master and Guru? Is Hermes, the messenger Trismegistus (thrice blessed) with his Caduceus staff intertwined with snakes, representing the spinal energy currents and spiritual potency of the enlightened human being, different from the first Guru Shiva, with His trishula and intertwined snakes and His teachings of awakening of the divine kundalinii to achieve higher consciousness? Or were they great personalities, sages, rishis, disciples, descendants linked to Lord Shiva? What are the distinctive clues that would allow us to take make such a seemingly wild connection?

Scratching beneath the local variations according to time place and person, the body of mystical knowledge is one and the same. The distinctive essence of Tantra, no matter in what language, is indisputably present.

It is a vast and fascinating area of study, but also highly controversial since it provides some tantalizing clues which shake the foundations of our current understanding of history, culture,religion and civilisation. Moreover it reveals that there has been an concerted effort to conceal, distort and delete**,** a significant part of human history.

”In the annals of human history, many truths and falsehoods have been recorded. Attempts have been made to belittle the importance of great personalities, to erase them from the pages of history, and often small and insignificant people have been magnified and presented as great. But none of these attempts has been successful. Everything is written on the pages of eternal time exactly as it happened; the selfish and vain efforts of petty people have left behind only scornful mirth and derisive laughter on the vast canvas of eternal time.

This colourful pageant of history, these unknown pictures of the past, the variegated splendour of this theatrical show, are all every moment rising and falling on the bosom of eternity. History is merely giving a gentle blow, a soft vibration of existence, on the solid rock of time.

So it has been rightly said that this Paramashiva, this Sadáshiva, is the uninvolved witness to all the events of the universe, and because of His impartiality, His unique witness-ship has been symbolized by His third eye." Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

"Tantra had its origin in India, and Shiva gave a systematic form to it. Of course, Tantra in its Káshmiirii and Gaoḍiiya (Bengali) Schools did exist before Shiva, but in a scattered and crude form.

Tantra has chiefly two branches, the Kashmir branch and the Bengali branch. The Kashmir branch was practiced to the west and north of Kashmir: - Gandhar (Afghanistan), Aryanyavraja (Iran), Arabia, Mesopotamia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Outer Mongolia (China) and a large part of Siberia. The Shaeva, Shakta and other schools of Tantras were practiced in accordance with the Kashmirii system in all these places."

Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

Shaivism in the Middle East

Shiva - Saba, Tsaba, Sheba, Sabbath, Sabean

Saba is the name of God to the Ethiopian Sabeans, who erected pillars and offered vegetation to him. The Hebrew Seba and Sheba are transliterations of Siva and Shiva. It is indisputable that Saba, Seba, Sheba, and Sheva, all Hebrew words, are transliterations of Shiva's name and/or attributes. Like the Dravidians in India, the Ethiopians also worshipped Krishna as Cainan or Kanneh, and Rama as Ramman or Rimmon. For verification that these were the names of the Ethiopian deities, look up Sheba, Seba, Saba, in James Hasting's Dictionary of the Bible (1919 edition). Some Indian scholars affirm that Ethiopia may in fact be the mother culture of India, and given the evidence that the oldest human bones thus far found are Ethiopian, this would indeed be even more evidence to add to the fact that the Sabean religion was the first universal religion of the world. What is being conjectured is that the migrating Ethiopians became the aboriginal Shaivites who were later invaded by the Aryans."

"… *the original male deity of Judaism is never addressed as Sheba, a transliteration of Shiva, for obvious reasons. It would disclose the original deity of Judaism as being Shiva and the original Jews as being Sabeans, that is, followers of Saba aka Sheba and Seba, all of which are names of Shiva. The deity Shiva … commands vegetarianism as a diet, compassion for animals, and does not respect castes or classes. He therefore does not at all fit in with what has become orthodox Judaism and Christianity, religions, or, more properly speaking, sects, which promote animal sacrifices as a diet, and elitist societies of rich and poor."* *"Shiva is Lord of the Sabbath"www.oocities.com*

The Assyrians

The Assyrian people originated from the area of the Koyel River in India, and moved Northwestward. At the time of Shiva there was an intense conflict and mutual hatred between the war like Aryans who followed the Vedas, and the “asuras” (Assyrians) the followers of Shaivite Tantra.

They Assyrians of that time revered Shiva, and they sought His protection from the war-like Aryans, which He granted. Was it then the Assyrians and their devotion and loyalty to Shiva who carried His teaching Northwards, established their city state Ashur and founding the civilisation of ancient Mesopotamia?

“*When the Asuras (a distortion of their name meaning “demons” as the Aryans liked to depict them), who were most hated by the Aryans, approached Shiva for protection from the Aryans, He readily gave them shelter. Who were these Asuras? In Central Asia, there was a country called Assyria, whose inhabitants were non-Aryans, and very hostile to the Aryans. The Aryans used to hate them intensely. Even today, some of the descendants of this Asura community can be found in the district of Palamau and some other parts of modern India. Asuras were not abnormal creatures, fifty feet tall, with over-sized noses, ears and teeth. Rather they were ordinary humans, like us. The only difference was that they would not accept anything Aryan – the Aryan code of conduct, the Aryan religion, etc. Anything related to Aryanism was repugnant to them. This was the only difference between the Aryans and the Asuras, and for this reason the Aryans considered it an act of virtue to kill the Asuras. Those Asuras approached Shiva for shelter, and He granted it”* Shrii Shri Anandamurti

“Sumer itself, the location of the Tower of Babylon, is derived from the Sanskrit ‘Sumeru’, meaning "The Great Mountain." The Bible tells how Iraq, Sumeria, or Mesopotamia was first settled by "people from the east" on the plains of "Sinnar." "Sinnar" is a term meaning roughly, "colony of the Indus people." Gene Matlock

The inscriptions of Mohenjo Daro support the theory of Indian migration to Sumer. An was considered a prehistoric god by the Sumerians. In Mohenjo-Daro An was being worshiped. This shows that Mohenjo-Daro is the place of prehistory for the Sumerians. During the prehistoric epoch of Sumer, An was called Abu-ummu or Mother-Father. In India it was called Ardhanaresvara.

The images of An in India have a large trident upon their head. The images of An are always nude. A copper image of the Sumerian An discovered at Khafaje by the Expedition of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago is made, having a trident on his head.

Over successive generations and thousands of years the Assyrians expanded their civilisation and amassed a vast empire, so that at its height it encompassed Cyprus, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon,Palestine, Egypt. It was the longest and most successful empire the world had known until its demise around 600 BC.

In this image An holds trident like objects, has the moon on hishead and is standing on a bull – all symbols of Shiva

Another distinctly Shiva-like deity with his bull and his trishula - note the caduceus, the seven cakras/ida pingala along its spine

Harran Turkey

The Moon God ‘Sin’ of Harran - Notice the crossed-legged posture akin to yogic semi-Padmasana of Shiva, the crescent moon and the winged-bulls which were the vehicles of the moon-god ‘Sin’. It may be noted that Shiva travelled long distances on His bull, a Himalayan yak. No doubt the mysterious and sudden appearance of Shiva from a far off place amazed the locals, was the subject of much storytelling and gradually fell into history as a mythology of a winged bull.

There were certain locations along these routes, mostly trading centres, resting places and watering oases, where traders gathered, worshipped and shared knowledge with local people. Many of those were Shaivites who, over the course of time evolved into communities, built temples and structures, and some of those communities eventually became established as great centres of learning and wisdom. Most of the strict adherents to Shaivism were also vegetarian, according to the teachings of Shiva.

Harran in Turkey is one such known location, both a trading centre and cultural crossroads, it is also considered the oldest surviving centre of Mandean Hermetic Gnostic (*Jinana*) mysticism, which functioned both as a schools of initiation into occult knowledge and mysticism, mathematics, cosmology, medicine, science and alchemy. A huge university once flourished there, where the arts and sciences were studied. A major focal point of the thriving city of Harran was a huge temple to the “moon-god” Sin, bearing direct resemblance to Shiva.

Later, during the spread of Islam, only converts to Islam or “people of the book” (Christians or Jews) were to be protected by the new Islamic rulers. Others, considered heathens and pagans who refused conversion were to be put to death. When the Caliph of Baghdad visited Harran, he noted that there was a large and thriving community of neither Christians nor Jews. Called to identify themselves, or face death, since they belonged to neither religion, they sought legal counsel and decided to declare themselves Sabeans–which could be derived from, ancient Sheba, then Shaivaite Yemen but also from Saba, derived from Tsaba, Shiva. Since they followed neither the Bible nor the Quran, they declared their holy book was the works of Hermes Trismegistus and were thus spared from punishment. Hermeticism thrived there, and the Sabeans of Turkey became the custodians of Hermetic mysticism, resisting both Christian and Islamic waves. They customarily undertook yearly pilgrimages to Egypt, where they believed the tomb of Hermes Trismegistus was located.

“..Whether perceived as a single or as a tripartite figure, Hermes was extolled as the original fount of prophetic wisdom, the first teacher of science and philosophy. He was associated with magic, alchemy, astrology, 'everything that had to do with miraculous powers and wisdom'. And 'through him it became possible for Muslims to integrate Greek science and philosophy into their world view without feeling that they were going in any way outside the prophetic tradition'.
Hermeticism, and especially alchemy, was embraced with particular enthusiasm by Sufi thought. Masters of the Sufi school in Baghdad produced treatises on alchemy and were subsequently associated with alchemical legends. Alchemical terminology was often used in expounding Sufi teachings: 'The Sufi master . . . operates upon the base metal of the soul of the disciple and with the spiritual methods of Sufism transforms this base metal into gold. According to the founder of one Sufi order: 'It is we who, through our glance, turn the dust of the path into gold. In Sufism, 'the world is a fashioning instrument which polishes mankind'.

The 'Great Work' of the alchemist meant for Sufis the spiritual transmutation of the man; and the elixir, or the Philosophers' Stone, became a symbol of this inner integration and completion. Sufi masters also incorporated the Hermetic doctrine of correspondence, of the interrelationship of macrocosm and microcosm, into their teachings. Many Sufi texts run perfectly parallel to those of the Hermetic corpus."- Carl Jung in‘Mysterium Coniunctionis’.

We know that Prophet Abraham settled and spent many years here in Harran, a fact which would have been unlikely if, as we are told, he had utterly rejected the spiritual path of his father. Since he was comfortably living in the midst of a Sabean vegetarian community, it seems quite feasible that Abraham could have been Sabean and a vegetarian himself

Who was Hermes Trismegistus?

"Who, then, was Hermes, and what may be said of the philosophy or religion that is connected with him? The early twentieth-century scholar Walter Scott, in his classic edition of the Hermetic texts, writes of a legend preserved by the Renaissance writer Vergicius:

> "*They say that this Hermes left his own country and traveled all over the world..; and that he tried to teach men to revere and worship one God alone, …and that he lived a very wise and pious life, occupied in intellectual contemplation…, and giving no heed to the gross things of the material world…; and that having returned to his own country, he wrote at the time many books of mystical theology and philosophy.*Vergicius

Little more is known of the personality himself but his timeless teachings lie at the heart of most Western mystery schools. We can offer no conclusive proof that Hermes was Shiva, but neither can it be ruled out. It will remain a mystery for the reader to draw his or her own conclusions after thorough research and reflection.

Pre-Islamic Arabia

Prior to Islam, Arabia was known as Arvasthan, the "Land of Horses" probably to honour the highly prized Arabian horses that were found there.

The Arab peoples of that era were nomadic, warring tribes, wandering the harsh arid deserts in order to eke out an existence in a barren land scarce in water and vegetation. Their laws were few and far between, it was generally a "might makes right" society where it was the strongest males who got to say what anyone else could or coudn't do …and how much that would cost them to do it! The scarcity of water and arable land caused them to rely heavily on livestock herding of sheep, goats, cattle and camels for milk and meat. There is no record of them having a coherent religion or spiritual path.

King Vikramaditya of India conquered these warring tribes in around 100 B.C. and established a kingdom there, based on Vedic dharma. Vedic Dharma had already absorbed Shiva into their worship by this time. He installed the Shiva Linga in the Kaaba. Shiva was also worshipped by Vedic followers along with a lot of other idols and deities who were worshipped with elaborate ritual as was the Vedic tradition. Mecca was a stopping point, a trading centre and a watering hole for traders en route to Petra and Jerusalem.

Under the wise rule of Vikramaditya, Arvasthan (Arabia), and Mecca in particular became a flourishing Vedic civilisation with systems of medicine, education, architecture, mathematics, astrology and religious teachings. However, over time, and long after the passing of the wise king, the worship of idols grew rampant, and corruption seeped in.

The Prophet Mohammed, who was born into a family of sheep traders, was a charismatic figure who found favour with the Arab tribes of that time and to whom he preached his gospel of absolute monotheism. He gathered the tribes together as he prepared to found his own religion that was to replace the idol worship, and hereditary priesthood of the Vedic tradition.

Interestingly, it is recorded in the Encyclopedia Islamia, as well as the Encyclopedia Britannica that Mohammed's own grandfather and uncles were in fact hereditary priests of the Shiva temple at Kaaba. Preserved in an important Islamic library in Turkey is a poem by the uncle of Prophet Mohamed Umar Bine Hassnam who died a martyr for refusing to convert to Islam. It is a poem to Lord Shiva with the poetic title: 'ABBUL-HIQAM' - meaning Father of Knowledge:

Kafavomal fikra min ulumin Tab asayru
Kaluwan amataul Hawa was Tajakhru
We Tajakhayroba udan Kalalwade-E Liboawa
Walukayanay jatally, hay Yauma Tab asayru
Wa Abalolha ajabu armeeman MAHADEVA
Manojail ilamuddin minhum wa sayattaru
Wa Sahabi Kay-yam feema-Kamil MINDAY Yauman
Wa Yakulum no latabahan foeennak Tawjjaru
Massayaray akhalakan hasanan Kullahum
Najumum aja- at Summa gabul HINDU

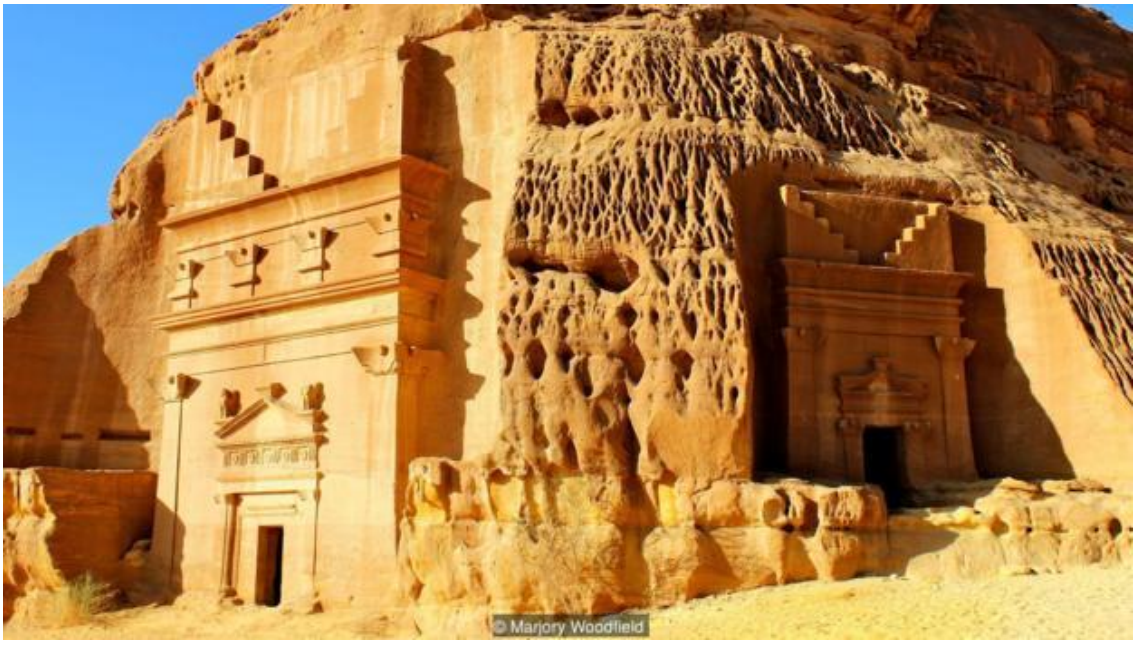
which translates as:

"The man who may spend his life in sin
and irreligion or waste it in lechery and wrath
If at least he relent and return to
righteousness can he be saved?
If but once he worship Mahadeva with a pure
heart, he will attain the ultimate in spirituality.
Oh Lord Shiva, exchange my entire life for but
a day's sojourn in India where one attains salvation.
But one pilgrimage there secures for one all
merit and company of the truly great."

Echoes of the Vedic past remain hidden in plain sight in the rituals at Mecca. The Islamic anti-clockwise perambulation of the Kaaba, is done exactly as the anticlockwise perambulation of Shiva. The white seamless dress worn by pilgrims is almost identical to the dress that Vedic priests had worn for their rituals. The Muslim prayer s recited five times a day, distinctly echoes the Pancha Maha Yajina of the Vedas, and the ritual bathing of five parts of the body before praying are exactly are required of those who offered Vedic prayers,

Thus Prophet Mohammed and his followers embarked on their crusade of forced conversion, with death generally being the price paid for refusers. They tore down all the idols, defacing or destroying along with it all the magnificent statues, architecture, carvings and artistry of that period reminiscent of anything connected with Shiva or the pantheon of Vedic gods and goddesses that had been worshipped alongside Him.

The “cleansing” was thorough, with almost no trace remaining of the former glory. The only place that still carries a trace of a former civilisation is Maidan Salah in the south, where Muslims will not go as they consider it under a curse because its former inhabitants refused to give up their own god in favour of Islam and were thus massacred. Though all the external figures have been defaced, and worn by the winds of time, one can still clearly make out the remnants of figures of a bygone era, gazing eyelessly into the desert, holding their secrets for all who dare to venture beyond the world of the generally accepted narrative.



Maidan Salah, Saudi Arabia

Ancient Egypt -
Tehuti the Alchemist and Khemet

Once again this mysterious figure arises, in a different country, possibly remembered by people of another era by another name. None has made such an impact on the roots of Western Mystery Schools, or the great civilizing arts and sciences which are at the foundation stones of Western Civilisation as the mysterious and enigmatic figure of Tehuti, the ancient Egyptian god of wisdom. He is also known as Thoth, and during the Greek rule of Egypt became known as Hermes, and Hermes Trismegistus. Analysis confirms that all these names apply to one personality, revered and respected teacher in ancient Egypt known at that time as Khemet (from which the word alchemy is derived) and the Mediterranean area.

Tehuti is usually shown as a human form with an Ibis head. Different interpretation have been given for this, the most logical being that it may have been sacrilegious to portray the face of a “god” (this is still a common theme in the dominant religion in Egypt), thus he is portrayed with a mask, symbolising the gift that he gave to the world…in this case WISDOM.

The identical nature of the teachings and profound knowledge of Cosmology and a practical mystical science emerges from antiquity almost simultaneously at various locations in slightly metamorphosed form, but essentially one and the same. We may recall that also Shiva had initiated several evolved and highly knowledgeable sages (saptarishis) and sent them to different corners of the planet to initiate worthy students into spiritual knowledge and spread the teachings of Tantra.

I have taken the liberty of quoting almost the entire following excellent article by Suresh Emre originally published in Renaissance Universal:

Spiritual Teachings of Tehuti

"Philosophical, spiritual, religious, metaphysical and scientific influence of the mythical personality Tehuti on the world culture is immense. Tehuti was deified by ancient Egyptians and he was accepted and respected by all societies in the Near East. He is mentioned as the source of knowledge and inspiration in all mystical and esoteric traditions in the Near East.

During the Greek rule of Egypt, Tehuti was identified as Hermes of Greek mythology. Tehuti is also identified as the Hermes Trismegistus of Hermetica. Prophet Idris mentioned in Quran was most probably Tehuti. In Jewish esoteric tradition Tehuti is sometimes identified with the mysterious prophet Enoch.

Tehuti is credited with the invention of the sacred hieroglyphic writing. In ancient Egypt he was known as the scribe of gods (Neteru). In Greek mythological description he was the dispatcher of divine messages.

Tehuti taught astronomy, architecture, geometry, medicine, metaphysics and spirituality to the ancient Egyptians. The books attributed to Tehuti became collectively known as "Hermetica". These books were rediscovered in 15'th century Florence and helped to inspire the Renaissance.

Many famous personalities in the Western world mentioned Tehuti (Thoth, Hermes) as a great influence on their intellectual life. Leonardo da Vinci, Durer, Botticelli, Roger Bacon, Paracelcus, Thomas More, William Blake, Kepler, Copernicus, Isaac Newton, Walter Raleigh, Milton, Victor Hugo, Carl Jung are only some of the names, the list is endless.

12'th century Iranian Sufi philosopher Yahya Suhrawardi claimed that Tehuti's philosophy was transmitted through Pythagoras and Plato, and in the Middle East through the Zoroastrian Magi. This philosophy reached him through his own teacher the Sufi mystic Al Hallaj. Both Al Hallaj and Suhrawardi were executed by the orthodox Islamic authorities.

Spiritual Teachings

Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy argue that the spiritual teachings of Hermes Trismegistus were lost in "dead weight of academic translations, Christian prejudice and Occult obscurities….I whole-heartedly agree with this assessment. This is why I quote from their book "The Hermetica" to summarize the spiritual teachings of Tehuti:

“God is Oneness. God is the source of all.”

“Because He unites everything, His nature is paradoxical. He is the creator who creates himself. He is always hidden from us, yet He is also the world around us. He has no particular name, because all names refer to him.”

“God is the Supreme Mind. He is everywhere and always. The human mind is an image of the Supreme Mind.”

“Everything exists as an idea within the Mind of God. He creates all things, in the same way that our minds create thoughts. Just as the nature of mind is to think, so the nature of God is to create.”

“God is constantly creating creation, and will never stop.”

“The Cosmos is His body, and we can come to know him by contemplating its extraordinary order and beauty.”

“The universe is a gigantic work of art, signed by an unknown master. Humble amazement is a prerequisite for coming to know God.”

“In the beginning there is unity. Unity separates into two fundamental forces, which generate everything. Hermes describes them as Light and Life, which became Mind and Soul.”

“The Oneness of God is both Light and Life. These two forces are the parents of Mind of the Cosmos.”

“The Cosmic Mind receives energy from God and gives it to all the things within the Cosmos. Through this the Cosmos is completely saturated with Soul – the Life Force. Everything in it is alive. Nothing is dead, not even the so called inanimate things. The Cosmos is a great living being.”

“Everything in the Cosmos is constantly changing. For God, there is no past, present and future – only eternity. Freeing ourselves from the illusion of time is yet another way we can experience God.”

“Time is like a circle, where all the points are so linked that you cannot say where it begins or ends, for all points both precede and follow one another for ever.”

“Destiny, working through the planetary gods, governs all creation. They pour an uninterrupted stream of Life-force into all forms of matter, making them ceaselessly change from one state to another in a process we call living and dying. The gods are ruled by the goddess Destiny who makes sure that all they do accords with God’s will.”

“God creates an ordering principle – the Mind of the Cosmos. This ordering principle continually organizes chaotic matter into beautifully ordered physical Cosmos. Time is one of the principles by which the Cosmos is ordered.”

“The Cosmic Mind is an idea expressed by the Mind of God. The physical Cosmos is a thought expressed by the Mind of the Cosmos.”

“At the heart of the Cosmos is the life-giving sun which is an image of the life-giving soul at the heart of every person.”

“God created humankind because he wanted there to be a creature capable of appreciating the great beauty of his Cosmos.”

“Hermetica teaches that the universe will not be finished until mankind has played his part in the story. The arts and sciences invented by humanity complete the grand plan of Destiny, art completes what nature cannot finish. All those who cooperate with the will of the Creator apply their skill and knowledge to enhance the beauty of the Cosmos.”

Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy, “The Hermetica”, Parcher & Penguin (1997), ISBN 0-87477-950-2

G.R.S. Mead, “Thrice Greatest Hermes: Studies in Hellenistic Theosophy and Gnosis”, Weiser (2001), ISBN 0-87728-947

Given the vast time scales involved, it may never be “proven” that Tehuti, Thoth, Hermes Trismegistus and Shiva are the same, mysterious unknown traveller. However even a skeptical reader will have difficulty disputing the similarities in the symbols the teachings and the descriptions of such revered figure(s) and the impact they had on advancing human civilisation.

What is unmistakable is that a mysterious figure emerged in three great civilisations Indian, Chinese and Egyptian with almost the same body of occult spiritual and mystical knowledge, secret practices and initiations, that have endured in potency and been revered down the ages filtering into the great philosophies and blossoming into the advanced sciences, arts and ethical foundations at the core of great civilisations of human history. The same mysterious personality bestowed the profound knowledge of previously unknown sciences, sowed the seeds of arts, music, dance, and unified people beyond their narrow caste, class and clan distinctions at the very birth of human civilisation as we know it.

That personality is surrounded by recurring symbols, mythologies, characteristics and qualities, and even similar characters accompanying Him in his wanderings. If one traces a successful civilisation to its roots, one cannot ignore this unknown figure, and the profound contributions He made to human development.

Petra, Jordan

Petra in Jordan was once a thriving commercial centre, strategically located at the intersection of the Silk Road, connecting China, India and Egypt, as well as the Incense route from Arabia to Damascus, where merchants came to rest, and to trade their precious cargoes while watering their camels and livestock after weeks of journeying through scorching deserts.

Its dramatic and well preserved monuments and rock carved buildings and temples nestled in the midst of ancient mountains and gorges of strikingly beautiful red and orange layered sandstone continues to amaze visitors while we ponder the mystery and secrets it contains.

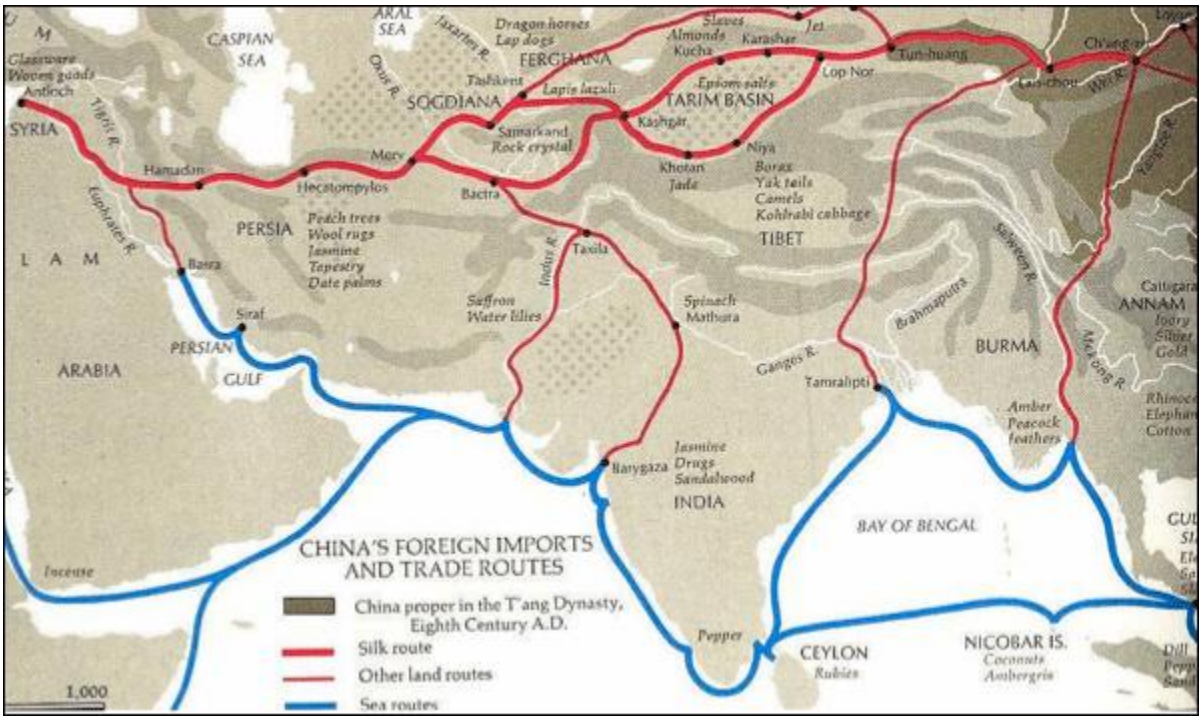
We are told that the architectural wonders were carved by the Nabateans, a nomadic Bedouin tribe, who controlled the routes offered hospitality and had amassed wealth as the “middle men” of the lucrative trades that passed through their territory.

However this should give pause for thought. The Nabateans themselves, being nomadic Bedouins, were tent dwellers and did not build any type of housing, not even the simplest mud hut, indeed it was even against their own laws to do so. That they were able to acquire such extraordinary skills to produce an architectural wonder of the world over the course of a few generations is not impossible, but highly unlikely. It is far more probable that as controllers of the routes with an interest in encouraging trade, they

hired a third party, known for their extraordinary architectural skills, to construct these marvelous sculpted edifices.

As Bhibu Dev Mishra points out, it is unlikely to be a coincidence that at the same time as the rock cut monuments were being built, a similar, though far more detailed, rock cut temple was being constructed in Ajanta, India, using the same technology

In any case it is clear that Petra functioned as more than a centre of commerce but also a centre of communication, exchange of cultures, languages, philosophies, religions and technologies.



Is there anything more than coincidence in the fact that the other city which was either built or commissioned by “the Nabateans” is named Shivta? A few kilometers away in what is now Israel is the city of Tel Sheva. The religious school of the Israelis is Yeshiva, the seven day mourning of the Israelis is called “sitting Shiva”…Shiva is the Lord of Seven (saba) referring to the seven notes of musical scale defined by Shiva as well as the seven cakras which one must ascend to achieve Oneness with God also defined by Shiva. Is Shiva also Lord of the Sabbath?

Yarikh is a moon god in the ancient Canaanite religion.The ancient land of Canaan comprises the modern regions of Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.
The Canaanite Moon God, Yarikh, seated in padmasana, yogic posture, bears a remarkable resemblance to Lord Shiva, the Moon-god.

What about the biblical kingdom of Sheba in Yemen? Who were the original Semitic Sabeans or Shiva worshippers with their ancient city of Shibham?

The ancient Semites used to erect pillars and large stone blocks which represented deity for them. The ancient Hebrews called these pillars “masseva” while in ancient Egypt they were known as “mastaba” the root Shiva or Saba being obvious in both. These pillars were often anointed with water, blood of sacrificial animals, oil or milk in a manner unmistakably reminiscent of ancient Vedic worship of the Shiva Linga.

The deity of the Nabateans was “Dushara”. His symbols were – the black blocks of stone – similar to the Shiva linga found all over India, the crescent moon, found atop some of the blocks, the coiled serpent also present on some of the stone blocks and the bull.

The goddess consorts of the Nabateans Dushara were three – Al Uzza, Al-lat, and Manat, with the latter being the “dark” complexioned one. Is it purely coincidental that Shiva had three wives: Parvati, Gaunga and of course Kali, the Dravidian-Austric one?

The Dravidians and Shaivism

"*In the Middle East and the Mediterranean world, there was an important civilisation of Asian origin, or which was at least linguistically related to Asia before the Aryan invasions. The megalithic monuments, myths and religious traditions common to India and the Mediterranean indicate moreover that this civilisation was indeed the vehicle of Shaivism."*Alain Danielou

Efforts to continue the search for the traces and influences of Shiva further afield, in Africa and Europe, and to understand the significance of the Shaivism on human history and civilization will be meaningless and appear as wild conjecture, without identifying the people who were the vehicle by which the ideas and culture of Shaivism were transported across continents.

Though their earliest origins are unclear and they may once have inhabited an entire landmass between East Africa and South India, which later became submerged in a major cataclysm, we recognize them today as the indigenous people of India, the dark-skinned Dravidians. They were the first devotees of Lord Shiva, who strictly adhered to his teachings, abstained from eating meat, and were practitioners of the mystical practises of Tantra.

"*They had brown skin, straight noses, straight hair, and spoke an agglutinative language called Dravidian (from the Prakrit language 'damila' -Tamil)...They and their religion, Shaivism, played a basic role in the history of humanity*."Alain Danielou

"*During the Neolithic Age….the cult of Pashupati Shiva (Lord of the Animals), and Parvati (Godess of the mountains) had become established amongst the Dravidians. It involved a great philosophical and religious movement which under the name of Shaivism was super imposed on animism, and became the principle source from which later religions have been drawn. The Lord of the Animals and the Lady of the mountains …found in Crete under the names of Zagreus and Cybele, are also found in all the civilisations which are linguistically or culturally related to the Dravidian world. The salient features … are the cult of the phallus, the bull and the snake."*

"…d*uring the Neolithic era …Shaivite rites and symbols began to appear both in India and in Europe…the cult of the bull, the phallus or linga,the snake, ….as well as ecstatic dances, the swastika...etc. …this culture was characterized by a naturalistic art ,giving great importance to animals*." Alain Danielou

The Dravidians of South India, the sea people, migrated northwestward, possibly following a major flood, upon which most historians agree, in which large populated land areas of India were submerged underwater. Danielou suggests that we may search for

their presence in “pockets of language” that exist inexplicably across the world, in areas totally unrelated to language of their neighbours, and yet with clear links to the Dravidian branches of language.

Traces of their language and culture can be found in Iberia, in ancient Pelasgian of the Aegean area of pre-Hellenic Greece, Malta, the Etruscan civilization and particularly in the Minoan civilisation of Crete. Surviving vestiges of Dravidian language can be traced the Peuhl language of the Fulani tribes of Africa, the Basque language, Georgian, and the dialects of Baluchistan.

The Mystery schools of Dionysius (Shiva) and Bacchus (the bhaktas or devotees) took root in the Aegean area, as spiritual methods and practices, were passed on orally through initiations. Such practices are intended to enable humans to break through preconditioned and restricted mental barriers and reach transcendent states of consciousness and divine ecstasy.

Here is may be necessary to note that the concept of blissful and transcendental intoxication experiences as a result of loss of ego in a state of union with the Divine, was a state aspired to in the Dionysian and Bacchanalian rites via the “left hand path” of Tantra which aimed to sanctify the natural human inclinations. Over time the material and sensory inclinations overcame the spiritual aspiration and the practices became degraded to more sensual interpretations of intoxication with wine and sexual liberty, which gradually caused the original and essential meaning of divine union to be lost and the rites dragged down to a base level of materialistic hedonism.

This is of course a very different approach from the disciplined practises of Tantra meditation in which self-control and vigorous meditative practises which awaken the Divine force of Kundalinii Shakti in the human body to unite in union with the Shiva consciousness in the Sahasrara at the crown of the head

It is now well known that most of the Greek philosophers were initiates of mystery schools and that the wisdom they had access to was a result of those initiations. Moreover, many Greek myths have direct parallels in Indian mythology and history,with even the names only having a slight alteration. Gene Matlock, Edward Pocock, Graham Hancock and Alain Danielou have all done extensive research and published excellent works detailing these connections, which are only briefly skimmed in this work.

Why would these languages have survived only in such far flung areas, amidst neighbouring peoples of a totally unrelated language and culture? The Aryan invaders and settlers were moving with comparatively great speed (they had horses and chariots) in their pursuit of world conquest, colonisation and the securing of resources. Due to the enmity between the Dravidians and the aggressive waves of warring Aryans, who sacked, looted and burned many ancient cities and dwellings of former inhabitants as

they moved, the Dravidians were forced to scatter and migrate and to re-locate into sheltered safe areas, often islands or mountainous areas, where they could safely settle and survive the onslaughts of their war-loving opponents.

Such isolated areas, generally lacking in resources but providing strategic protection, might have been places of refuge, from where they could create a stronghold to pursue the constant struggle for survival against the comparatively technologically advanced and warlike Aryans. Moreover the Dravidians were skilled sailors, also known as the "sea people". A careful study of the ancient Phoenicians, whose history has mostly been erased, might lead one to conclude their Dravidian origins. Their ability to navigate the oceans aided them immensely in creating island strongholds, but also in important international trade, and as they navigated the seas, and developed the grade trade routes and seeded civilisations, carrying the essence of Shaivism yet further afield.

Tantra, Matriarchy and the Worship of the Goddess

In ancient India, before the arrival of the Aryans, the matriarchal system of inheritance as well as the matrilineal order of society was in vogue among the Austric and Dravidian communities. Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

The Tantric Dravidians had matrilineal and matriarchal society, and worship of a mother Goddess was also prominent in their culture. They affording a dignified and equal position to women, a female priesthood, and, being settled agriculturalists, had retained harmonious contact with and reverence for nature, animals, celestial bodies and planetary influences, seasons and natural phenomena and the roles of each one of them in maintaining balance and harmony of the whole.

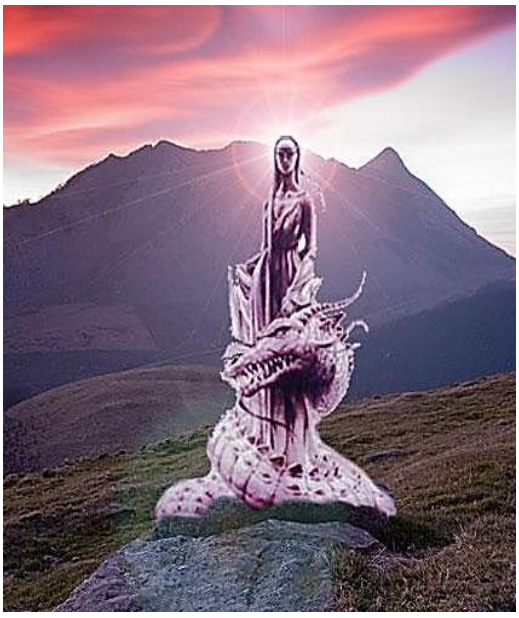
...Dravidian festivities. Another noteworthy fact is that in the Chaŕ and a number of other popular púják, the Vedics or Brahmans have no place at all, or if they do participate, have a secondary role. The women play a most significant role in these púják. The specialty of non-Aryan ceremonies is that the women's role is predominant. Yet another remarkable factor is that although the Vedic sun-god is a male god, the non-Aryan sun-god is female, a goddess." Shrii Shrii Anandamurti

The Aryans, by contrast, had a patriarchal society and worshipped male deities. They hated the Dravidian people and were determined to uproot and destroy all forms of goddess worship and matriarchy and the subtler intuitive elements of the more feminine

cult, of which they were afraid and could not comprehend. Being nomadic hunters and herders, they had little sense of connection to the land, nor reverence for the divine within the earth, the water, the nature the animals or other species in their environment, they migrated into an area, used up all its resources, and when it was no longer productive or useful they simply abandoned it and moved on.

The Basque

Between the borders of France and Spain in the Pyrenees Mountains lies the Basque country, with its own unique identity and a language not related in any way with the Latin language families of their neighbours. The dominant religion today is Catholic. however the ancient pre-Christian religion focused of a mother Goddess, Mari, and her consort Zuggar. The mythology of Mari still exists strongly in the culture and mythology of the Basque until today. One can easily see how the Catholic crusaders syncretized Mari into their “virgin Mary”, as the object of devotion.

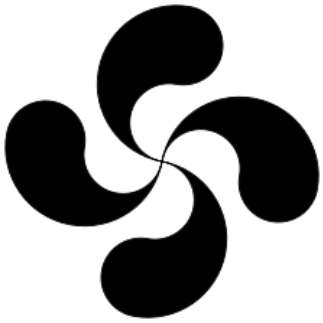


Mari was a sun goddess, represented by a solar disc and by the symbol of the Basque people, and the lauburu which even the most skeptical observer will not have difficulty in seeing the similarity to a swastika. She was also the goddess of the mountains and of thunder, often mounted on a bull or ram, associated with serpents.

Is it a coincidence that there is a South Indian goddess by the same name, linked to Shiva’s wife Parvati?

The South Indian Goddess “**Mari Amma**”: Mari Mother

Below is the symbol of Basque country and its people, the lauburu. Until today, the lauburu, as opposed to the Christian cross, is the preferred symbol on many tombs.



The priesthood in those ancient times was female, and they acted as both midwives and priestesses, a tradition continued until the time of the Catholic Inquisition when they were declared witches and sorceresses and burned at the stake.

The cave of Zugaaramurdi, - Zugaar was clearly none other than Shiva, the husband of goddess Mari/Parvati - was singled out as a target by the Catholic Church as it was known as a place where “pagan” rituals were

carried out by “witches,” actual priestesses with joyous song and dance in celebration of their god and goddess. Thousands of innocent Basques were targeted, tortured and burned alive, mostly women and children in one of the most horrific mass murders of the inquisition…all in the churches desperate attempt to stamp out all reference to the pre-Christian cult beloved to the people. Those who escaped that fate could no longer speak of their cult or profess to practice it and gradually the old religion was suppressed and disappeared -although the photo of a present day celebration of the equinox (Diipavali) betrays the fact that though it may have changed its expression, the ancient spirituality is certainly not erased from the psyche of the Basque people.

Festivities in the cave of Zuggara (Shiva) - consort of Mari in modern times on the day of the equinox.

It may be worthy of note, that today’s revival of interest in wicca, witchcraft and neo-paganism is essentially a return to seek out the ancient Shiva/Shakti cult and tantric practises from which they sprang. The negative and evil connotation given to witches and “the craft” being the demonization of the wise priestesses, devotees and healers being the work of the Aryan patriarchal religions in their attempt to stamp out the goddess worship and the cult and practices that they did not understand but which had so empowered the people they wanted to exert control over.

The Basque language, Euskara is distinct and bears no relationship to the Latin languages of the surrounding countries. Yet scholars have noted its striking similarity to Dravidian groups. Over the course of millennia, each of those locations have survived persecution, holy wars, inquisitions and forced conversions by adopting the dominant religion (Christian, Judaism or Islam). However subtle traces of an older mystical practice or method of communing with divinity can still be found albeit in metamorphosed form, in cultural memories, festivities, monuments, symbols and mythology, or sometimes in secret practices not publicly acknowledged. We should bear in mind that this language has survived for millennia, a tribute to the steadfast efforts of the Dravidian and Basque people for keeping their language and identity despite attempts to absorb it by the neighbouring cultures.

The following is a partial list showing a few of the similarities:

Compiled by Edo Nyland from Dr. N. Lahovary's book'Dravidian Origins and the West'

Page	Dravidian	English	Basque	English
164	ura	wife	urruxa	female
165	Irru(Ta)	To bring forth	errun	To lay eggs
165	iru	To be	iruditu	To resemble
165	il	To be	Illi (Berber)	To be
165	ul (Ta)	To exist	ulertu	To understand
165	aru	To give birth	aur	child
166	Ali (Ma)	woman	ala	girl
166	Ir (Brahui)	Sister	arre	sister
167	Kappu (Ka)	meat	Kaba (l)	Domestic animal
167	Odal (Te)	body	odol	blood
167	biho	heart	bihotz	heart
167	pala	flesh	opa	offering
167	Iracci (Ma)	meat	aragi	meat
168	Suri (S.Dr)	To pour	isuri	To pour
168	Ana (Ka)	breath	asnasa	respiration
168	Naru (S.Dr.)	odor	narru	skin
168	Usir (Ka)	breath	usna	smell
168	u-suru	nose	sur	nose
169	Sindu (Ka)	Bad smell	Sund-da	stink
169	Kuku (Malto)	summit	kukula	Summit, peak
170	Buru (Te)	Something round	Bular/burar	breast
171	Karata (Ka)	Skull, coconut	Garaun skull	brain
171	Mula (Ma)	brain	muin	brain
171	kara	height	gara	High, prominent
171	bhala	forehead	Belar (Zuber)	forehead
172	gadda	chin	ganga	mouth
172	Ba (Ka)	mouth	abo	mouth
174	Begu (Ka)	To spy	behatu	To observe

Countries with language links to Dravidian include the Guanche (Canary Islands). The Berber peoples of North Africa, the Mexico and Mesoamericas, the Etruscan and the Mayan civilisation

Since it is beyond the scope of this work to detail all the similarities, a few unmistakable and fascinating links will be touched on very briefly.

Guanche

Guanche refers to the original language and peoples of the Canary Islands, before the invasion of the Spanish in 1500 AD, in which much of the original population was massacred, and Catholicism was imposed on the survivors.

Whilst today, the Canary Islands are a favourite holiday destination for Europeans, the history of the islands is again one of a tenacious struggle for survival with few natural resources and isolated from the mainland. Most of the Guanche population were sheep herders, and depended on their herds for meat, wool and milk.

The Guanche language has no linguistic connection with Spanish, but is most closely linked with Dravidian though there are also words unrelated to either.

The following list is the work of Arysio Nunes, taken from Edo Nylands work:

Guanche	***Meaning***	***Dravidian***	***Meaning***
Achaman	**Heaven**	**ox-am-an**	**the upper expanse**
Achano	**Year**	**ajja-no**	**time division**
Achicaxna	**People**	**acchi-sagina**	**lowly crowd**
Achimencey	**king's relative**	**acchi-menka**	**king's relatives**
Achit	**long live, hail**	**akchi, agi-t**	**Hail**
Achimayek	**mother, grandmother**	**acchi-mayi-ek**	**Great Mother of God**
Achoron	**Earth**	**Achurun**	**marshy land**
Ahico	**leather shirt**	**ayi-kov**	**breast cover**
Ahof	**Milk**	**ay-ubi**	**breast food**
Amulan	**Lard**	**am-ullu**	**liquid fat**
Ahoren	**barley bread**	**av-ari**	**baked-barley**
Añepa	**royal staff**	**anne-pal**	**royal staff**
Ara	**Goat**	**Ar**	**Goat**
Armenine	**Grasslands**	**aram-meyni**	**grazing field**
Banot	**Javelin**	**ihpa-not**	**sharp-javelin**
Beñasmen	**crop, harvest feast**	**panna-as-men**	**ripe fruit crop**
Bucio	**conch trumpet**	**Pucci**	**spurt of sound**
Cancha	**Dog**	**Kunchi**	**red dog**
Ere	**Pond**	**Eri**	**Pond**
Ganigo	**pot, jar**	**kann-iku**	**water vessel**
Gofio	**Bread**	**guvi-u**	**parched sweet cake**
Goro	**Corral**	**gor-o**	**sheep pen**
Guan	**Man**	**Gand**	**hero, male**
Guanamene	**prophet, seer**	**kan-amani**	**father seer**

guanar-teme	king of the nation	gan(d)-ak-tempe	king of the nation
Guanaco	country, nation	gan(d)-ak	land of the heroes
Guanil	loose cattle	kan-iyal	loose cattle
Guayca	leather legging	kay-ka	leg protection
Guayota	the devil	kay-ota	the fiery lord
Gujon	Ship	Kuccham	Mast
Hachichey	peas, beans	a-chik-kay	edible beans
Haña	sheep herd	ana, kana	flock, herd
Irichen	wheat, grain	Arichi	rice, grain
Magec	god (the sun)	Mangeh	bull = Shiva
Mencey	King	Menkay	King
Mocan	type of fruit	Manka	Mango
Quevehi	your highness	Cevvai	your highness
Sigoñe	captain, chief	cek-kon	head leader
Tabone	knife	Tarpuni	knife, blade
Tagoror	council,	Takkor	worthy persons
Tajaraste	name of dance	takcha-arasati	royal dance
Tamazanona	barley mixed with ground meat	tam-acchana-anna	food made of ground grain and ground meat
Tamaragua	good morning	itam-eruka	promising morning
Tamarco	goatskin dress	atta-makar	goat skin
tano, taro	barley, grain	(t)aru	grain, food
Tenique	flexible mace	tanka, donik	Mace
Toya	fern	Tai	tender edible sprouts
Teme	king ?	Tempe	Chieftain
Vacaguare	I prefer to die	vaka-k-ari	I choose to die
Xerco	sandals	Cherpu	Sandals
Xaco	mummy, corpse	Chacchu	Corpse

As with the Berber peoples, although both tall, white skinned, blue eyed people and red haired bearded men as well as dark skinned are represented in the history of the Guanche, there is no evidence to confirm an Aryan presence prior to the invasion of the Spanish. Amongst the original Gaunche and until today no one has succeeded in erasing the influence of the mother sun-Goddess, Chaxiraxi and her consort Magec -the bull/Shiva - and the native language which has remained, though no doubt with many changes, is distinctly Dravidian in origin. The original Guanche people built pyramids, temples and practiced mummification, clearly also linking it to Egypt.

Until today, the main festival of Tenerife is the festival of the goddess Chaxiraxi.

Interestingly many of the images show her as black female.

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The present day catholicized “Our Lady of Candelaria” appears to be but a thinly disguised version of the Guanches original beloved goddess Chaxiraxi

When the Spanish invaders arrived they found a people who refused to give up their Mother goddess of the Sun and Moon and all Earths creatures, in order to embrace a male, patriarchal god and religion.

The concept of the black virgin of Catholicism appeared after the finding of a black skinned goddess statuette on a beach, supposedly having miraculous powers. The Spanish apparently quickly solved the problem by syncretising her into the Virgin Mary, and she was relegated to the role of mother of Jesus. However they were unable to erase the image of the black goddess that had captivated people for millennia and decided to absorb her as she was represented to her people, dark skinned lady who today is worshipped as “the black virgin Mary”, known around the world but few question her origins.

Would this dark skinned goddess possibly have anything to do with this?

Akhiladeshvari – A form of Parvati beloved to the Tamil people of South India.

Or even this? The black skinned Goddess Kali, wife of Shiva

While skeptics will claim that the similarity between the images can offer no conclusive proof of anything, nevertheless, the resemblances that no-one else seems to have explored, are quite striking, and the question worth asking.

The Etruscan Civilisation

Etruscan pendant with swastikas

From about 800 BCE, the Etruscans established themselves developed an advanced and prosperous civilisation along the Western coast of Italy. The focal point of the region they once ruled is now known as Tuscany.

The Greeks who journeyed there were shocked at what they found. There was an advanced civilisation with kings, priests, musicians, skilled architects and engineers and artists who had created some of the finest and most tender and sensitive art of the Mediterranean region, and possibly of the world at that time. There were also miners, before mining was known to the rest of the region, who created beautiful metal work and traded it abroad.

They excelled in worship of the Divine, saw humans primary purpose as to find his/her place in the Cosmos and play it to the best of their ability (Dharma), acknowledged an afterlife, and had intuitive and prophetic abilities. It was the Etruscans that imparted their mystical knowledge to the Romans.

However the thing that most shocked the Greeks was the position afforded to women who were respected as equals, which was unheard of in the early Greek and Roman civilisations, as well as public displays of affection between men and women, which they thought scandalous.

The Etruscans taught the Romans everything, including engineering, architecture. It was the Etruscans who drained the swamps where now Rome stands, and channeled

the water into sophisticated drainage systems. The word “Roma” is an Etruscan word meaning ‘(Lord) Rama’.

Regarding their language, the following remarkable quote comes from Arysio Nunes dos Santos which was his introductory remark to his thoroughly researched and well substantiated scholarly linguistic work “Etruscan – a Dravidian Tongue?”

We have, some years ago, made the remarkable discovery – which we now prove in full detail – that Etruscan, the ancestral tongue of the ancient Romans, is indeed a member of the Dravidian family of languages. The importance of this discovery cannot be overstated, as it radically alters all that is known of human prehistory.

Secondly, the present discovery demonstrates the great importance that coy India had in civilizing the other nations, not only in the Far East, but also in the Mediterranean region, the so-called Old World. Dravida, even today one of India’s main tongues, is also closely related to the Austronesian languages, spoken all over the South Seas, from Madagascar in the West to Easter Island in the East. So, in a very literal way, we can say that Dravida – the name given the family – is indeed a global tongue that well deserves the name of Proto-World, the tongue formerly spoken in the primordial center where humanity first evolved, before its great diaspora.”

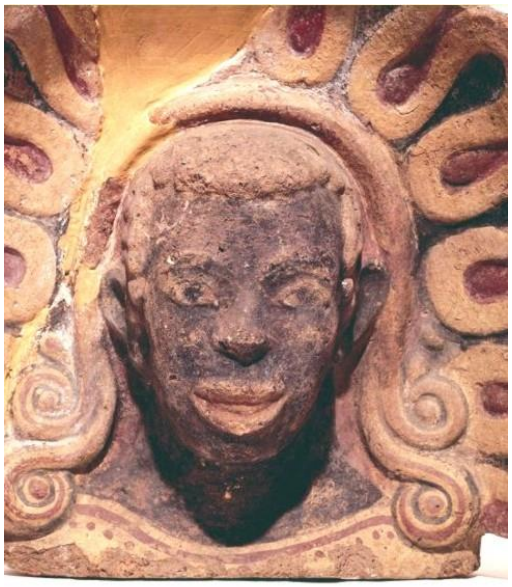
Arysio Nunes Dos Santos

Skeptics will no doubt ask how a supposedly Caucasian race could possibly speak Dravidian related language?

So let us ask, who were the Etruscan people?

Most people assume, either from ignorance or arrogance, suppression of truth or simply mistaken belief, that the original Etruscans were white Caucasians. Their early art work tells us a different story.

Etruscan Terracotta Relief - 600 B.C.



Etruscan Antefix - 500 B.C.

Etruscan Antefix - 500 B.C.

Etruscan - 550 B.C.

A careful search of the early Etruscan artwork, shows us these dark complexioned peoples represented, again and again, not as slaves, as some suggested but as the entire spectrum of the people of Etruria.

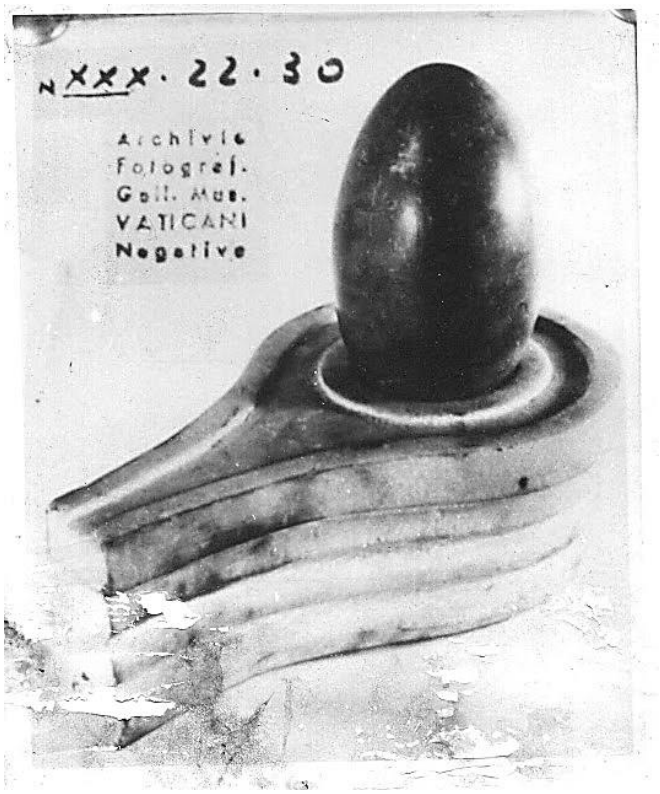
Looking at the artistic work over the course of their civilisation, one finds a life-loving people and joyful, dynamic culture, with warm facial expressions and gestures, scenes of joyful dance, music, work, sports and daily life.

No civilisation is without its darker side however, and the Etruscan funerary ritual fights appealed to the rough and warlike Latins and were later to become the notorious gladiator spectacle of Rome.

It seems that the initial waves of Latins were not particularly hostile, is appears that there was an intermingling and exchange of knowledge, the Romans learning everything from the Etruscans about their city building, governance, arts, music and religion. Considering what was to follow, perhaps it was an infiltration rather than an outright invasion.

Eventually however the Romans turned on them and sacked and burned their beautiful cities, and began to build their own empire. With the coming of the Latin peoples many of the Etruscans fled by sea. Those that could not were assimilated into the culture… and indeed towards the end of their civilisation there are numerous artistic representations of bi-racial marriages and festivities and intermingling of cultures that did not appear all traumatic, indicating how the Etruscans eventually got swallowed up into the emerging Roman Empire.

We cannot leave the topic however without mentioning THIS, which is displayed in the Etruscan museum at the Vatican. A black meteoric stone formed into a perfect and precise Shiva Linga, worshipped in Etruscan religious rites and practices.



Shiva Linga on display as Etruscan artifact in Etruscan museum at the Vatican

Roma

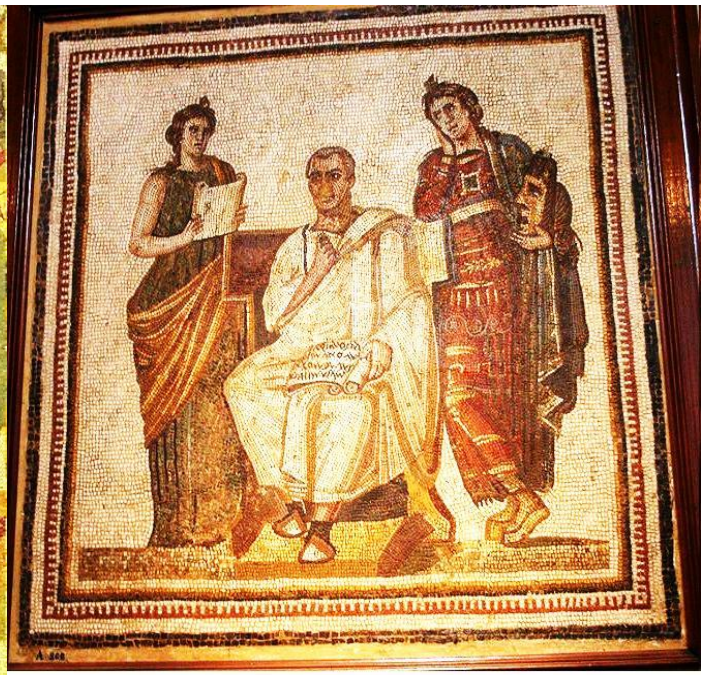
Since the Roman Empire was an Aryan construction as a result of Aryan invasion and settlement it does not belong in this work except to mention a couple of less known facts.

Much of Roman knowledge and skills was garnered from the Etruscans. The art, architecture, engineering, music, dance and religious beliefs and the culture itself was absorbed and skillfully put to use by the Aryan empire builders. Even the word “Roma” is an Etruscan word.

Many Etruscans fled the invasions, some escaping westward and others headed to the north, and settled into the alpine areas - there is some conjecture that the Rhaetian people of the Alpine regions are ancestors of those Etruscan refugees. Those who did not or could not escape, integrated into the Roman culture, intermarrying and producing a blending of races and sharing knowledge and skills.

There is some evidence that possibly the earliest Roman senators were in fact Etruscan. Zooming into the photos below gives interesting evidence of this:

Mosaic of an obviously Black Roman Emperor Maximianus Herculius. From the Villa Romana del Casale, Sicily Italy. Circa 300 A.D. Note, the Emperors guard on the right, has on what appears to be the "MASK" of a White person. The meaning is unknown, as is whether it was installed by modern "Restorers".



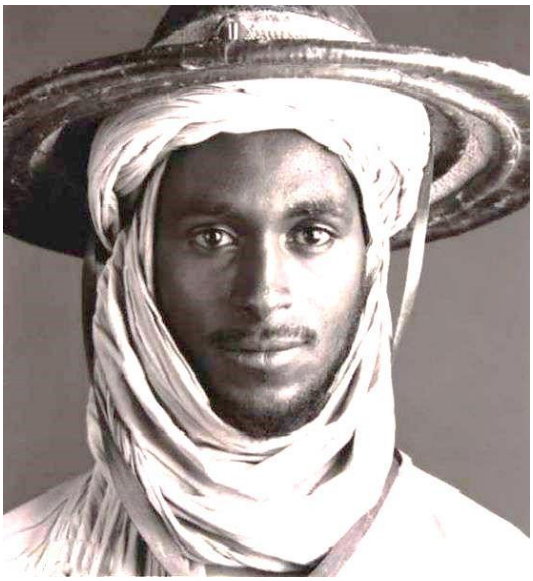
Publius Vergilius Maro (also known as Virgil or Vergil (70 B.C.–19 B.C.)
The great Latin poet Virgil, holding a volume on which is written the Aeneid. On either side stand the two muses: "Clio" (history) and "Melpomene" (tragedy). The mosaic, which dates from the 3rd Century A.D, was discovered in the Hadrumetum in Sousse, Tunisia and is now on display in the Bardo Museum in Tunis, Tunisia.

Note the attendants in both pictures are either wearing or holding a white Aryan face mask. One can't help wondering what exactly was meant by this, or perhaps the point that was being made by the artist?

Lastly we cannot leave the topic of Rome without mentioning the Vatican, and its similarity to the word Vatika in Sanskrit, meaning garden, place of religion, culture, and knowledge. So we may have Dharma Vatika, Ananda Vatika, Ashrama Vatika …

Is it a peculiar coincidence that the Vatican itself, when viewed aerially, has the precise design of a Shiva linga and yoni? One can't help but wonder at the secrets hidden in the ancient texts that are so carefully guarded from the eyes of humanity with maximum security in the vaults of the Vatican!

The Fulani



The Fulani People are very widely spread in many countries across North West Africa, Their ancient language and culture is distinct from the Negroid African population. They have migrated North Westward from the Middle East, but their ancient origins are neither Arab nor Hebrew Semitic. In language, features, culture and their unique moral code, they have more in common with the Dravidians of India than either the Arabs or the Negroid population of Africa. Their language, which is the most widely spoken language in Africa, links them to the Dravidian population of Tamil. DNA testing also links them to the Dravidian race.

Although they converted to Islam, possibly as a matter of survival, many of the people themselves willingly acknowledge their interest and affinity for Indian culture, films, and music.

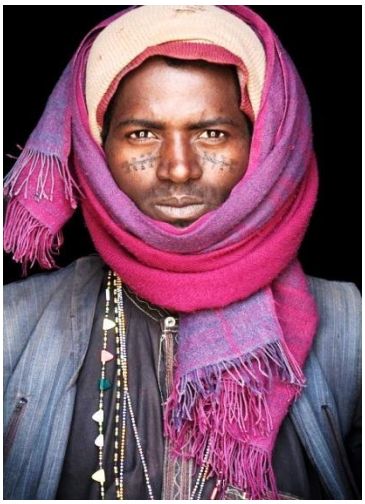
They were cattle herders and pastoralists, a nomadic tribe who have roamed the Sahara for millennia, forever in search of new pastures for their cattle with whom they are intimately bonded. It is worth mentioning here that in the Neolithic period when they first arrived, the Sahara was not desert at all but lush green lands teeming with life. Traditionally they did not consume flesh of cattle but use their milk, cheese and butter, and manure for their crops. They do not eat pig flesh at all.

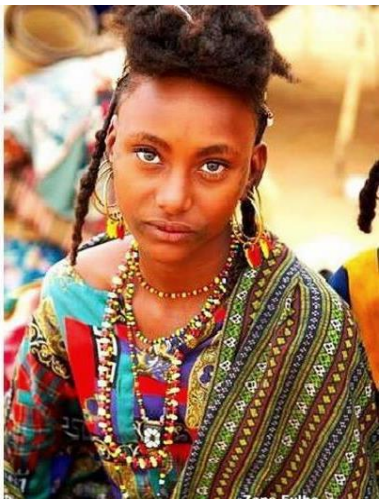
Most of them converted to Islam under the Arab incursions, though some have commented that such conversions were mostly a convenient arrangement for survival, more than a fervent devotional matter, with the alternative being death.

In pre Islamic Africa they recognised one Supreme Being, (as opposed to animistic beliefs or the Vedic pantheon) a Supreme Creator who dwelt in a quiet, peaceful place

Worship of Murungu, Lord of the Mountains, can also be found.The Tamils worshipped Murugan, Lord of the mountains. For them Murugan was none other than Kartikeya, son of Gaunga and Shiva. Traces of mystical Tantra, though may once have existed are no longer in evidence since the conversion of the Fulani to Islam.

Some also joke that they worship their cattle, but for the Fulani herders that is not a joke, and they readily admit that their lives depend on their cattle, for food but also as a currency, a symbol of wealth. which in turn determines marriage-ability, and demonstrates their ability to provide for their family and the ability to purchase all their needs. In the words of a herdsman “they give us life, why would we not worship them?”





The Americas and Mayan Civilisation

“History tells an intriguing tale, one that ultimately may provide the greatest support for a spiritual worldview. But history has also been distorted. An example of this is the "common knowledge" that Columbus discovered America. Some say he didn't, nor were any other Europeans the first to touch America's shores. There is good reason to reexamine the history of the world and the Americas in particular. An unbiased look into the development of our planet's civilisations may help to bring about a change in values, a shift from material values to spiritual ones” Ricardo Palleres

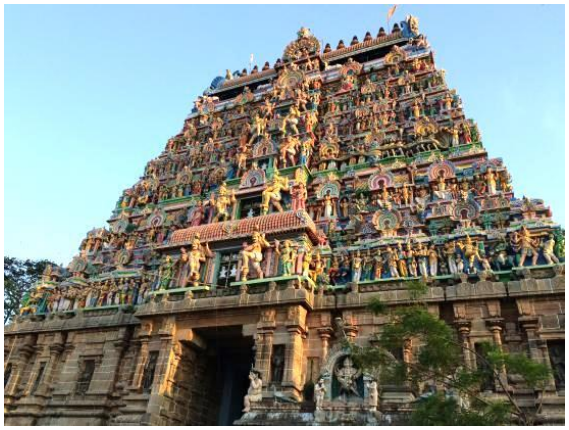
Making sense of any attempt to connect the Mayan Civilisation with South India, we should be familiar with the personality of Maya Danava.

Maya Danava was said to be of the Naga tribe, people of the Serpent, in South India. Some said he was an asura (you will recall that the asuras were the Assyrians, whom the Aryans hated intensely and referred to them as demons, which of course they were not).Everyone agrees that he was an extraordinarily talented mystic, architect, astronomer and engineer. He is mentioned in the Mahabharata.

The story goes that during a time of conflict with the armies of the Pandavas, he was fighting alongside the opposing armies. After their defeat he was captured and taken prisoner along with other members of the army. Before the place they were held hostage was burnt down, he was freed by Arjuna on instruction of Krishna. Out of gratitude, he had a palace made for Arjuna. Eventually he was to lead a mass migration of the Naga people to South East Asia and then to the Americas.

The most strikingly obvious evidence for the presence of the India’s in the Americas is in the architecture. Compare for example, the CHILAMBARAM temple in the building of Chichen Itza, and CHIDHAMBARAM, the ‘Hall of Consciousness’ temple of Lord Shiva in Tamil Nadu, built according to the same geometric matrix, the Vasatipurusha Mandala (Rajdharma).

Again language offers further clues. As for echoes of a spiritual awareness and spiritual practise, the Mayan word Kâultanlini, which refers to the divine power and has obvious similarities to the word Kundalini. The term yoga can be found again in the Maya word Yokâhah, which means at the summit of truth. Many place names can easily be linked quite precisely to Tamil and Sanskrit.



Clockwise from top left:

1. Chidhambaram – temple of Lord Shiva, Tamil Nadu, India

2. Chichen Itza – containing the Chilambalam (Hall of Consciousness) Mexico

3. Tikal Mayan Temple Guatemala (Gauthama alaya)

4, Ahun Ka – Mayan temple Belize.

Below is a shortened list of similarities to ponder. *T*he Aztec culture in particular shows a striking resemblance to that of India. Aztecs divided their society into four divisions of both labor and spiritual status, as did the Hindus. In India, this system of government was known as *varnashrama,* or the division of society based on body types and mental dispositions resulting from past karma. As in Indian civilisation, the Aztecs maintained a God-centered government in which people were employed in accordance with their natural karmic tendencies. The results of the labor of all the priests, administrators, mercantilists, and laborers were for the glorification of Godhead, who in turn was thought to provide for humankind.

Aztec boys were sent to school at the age of five, at which time they were put under the care of a priest and trained in various duties of temple life, bearing a striking resemblance to the Indian system of gurukula, in which boys were sent to the care of a guru for spiritual and practical education.

Is it a coincidence: Kali Yuga begins 3102 BC and Mayan Yuga begins 3114 BC?

Left: Early Mayan Calendar Right: Hindu Calendar

"The doctrine of the world's ages (Hindu Yugas) was imported into Pre-Columbian America... The Mexican sequence is identical with the Hindus... The essential fact remains that they were derived from a common source... It would be ridiculous to assert that such a strange doctrine was of spontaneous origin in different parts of old and new worlds." Mackenzie, Myths of Pre-Columbian America.

"*The Mexican Indians and the Incas of Peru were primarily vegetarians. They were of high moral character and hospitable and generous as a habit. They practiced astrology, and mental telepathy was common among them. It was perhaps their peace-loving disposition that, like the Hindus, allowed them to be ruled by Europeans. Unfortunately, the American Indians did not survive their cultural exchange with Europe. The Europeans, through book burning and bayonet, 'successfully' "converted" them, leaving very little trace of their noble civilisation."* Ricardo Palleres in "Who discovered America?

What if Europe was really in darkness in comparison to the Far East and India that Columbus set sail to find? What if the popular idea that the Tibetans and the American Indians have much in common in terms of their spiritual culture is largely a result of another historical scenario? What if Hindus and Hopis, Advaitins and Aztecs, Tibetan monks and Mayans were part of one world culture -- a spiritual one? Perhaps the development of Western civilisation and the Protestant ethic, which many of the West are now coming to abhor, have gotten in the way of the spiritual development of humanity. Perhaps many technological developments, while making physical contact with other cultures more possible, have distanced us from one another in a deeper sense. Another historical scenario: The spiritually sophisticated Asians were the first to set foot on Western shores, and Asia, not Europe, was the seat of culture. The central focus of that culture was genuine spiritual development, not the mere shadow of the same in the form of the politically-motivated Pauline Christianity and later the Protestant ethic, which licensed humankind's exploitation of nature.

Ricardo Palleres "Who discovered America?http://archaeologyonline.net/artifacts/who-discovered-america

China and Southeast Asia

The teachings of Tantra are deeply and indelibly embedded in Vajrayana and Mahayana Buddhism. Ancient sacred cave statues such as those in Datong, where one can visit a long series of caves of progressively ancient eras, finds Shiva statuettes carved into the rock, dwelling alongside the later carved statues of Buddha. The earliest caves contain only the well worn yet recognizable forms of Shiva.

Vajrayāna, **Mantrayāna**, **Tantrayāna**, **Tantric Buddhism** and **Esoteric Buddhism** are the various Buddhist traditions of Tantra and Secret Mantra, which developed in India and spread to Tibet, Bhutan, and East Asia. In Tibet, Buddhist Tantra is termed *Vajrayāna*, while in China it is generally known as Tangmi "Chinese Tantrayāna" or *Mìzōng,* in Japan it is known as Mikkyo - "secret teachings".

Vajrayāna is usually translated as Diamond Vehicle or Thunderbolt Vehicle, referring to the Vajra, a mythical weapon of Lord Shiva which is also used as a ritual implement. Founded by wandering Indian sannyasis, Vajrayāna subscribes to the literature known as the Buddhist Tantras. It includes practices that make use of mantras, mudras, dharanas, mandalas and the visualization of deities.

The Indian mahasiddhas or great adepts used methods that were radically different than those used in Buddhist monasteries including living in forests and caves and practiced meditation in cremation grounds similar to those practiced by Shaiva Kapalika ascetics. These yogic circles came together in tantric feasts (ganachakra) often in sacred sites (*pitha*) and places (*ksetra*) which included ecstatic dancing and singing in their mystical practises.

And what of **Taoism**?

Here is what Shrii Shrii Anandamurti has to say on the topic:

“Tantra. The root tan means “to expand”, and tra means “liberator”. The science that liberates you from all bondages, physical, mental and spiritual, is Tantra. Tan means “expansion” and tra means “liberator”. The science that expands your mind and spirit and thus liberates you is Tantra. The metamorphosed form of tantra about seven thousand years ago became taota. The Sanskrit dhyána became c’han [in Chinese], c’han became chen [in Korean], chen became zen [in Japanese]. It is a very interesting science. Now, tantra became taota; taota after further distortion, further metamorphosis, became taoa – in modern language [Chinese], Tao. Taoism, don’t you know? Its root is Tantra.”

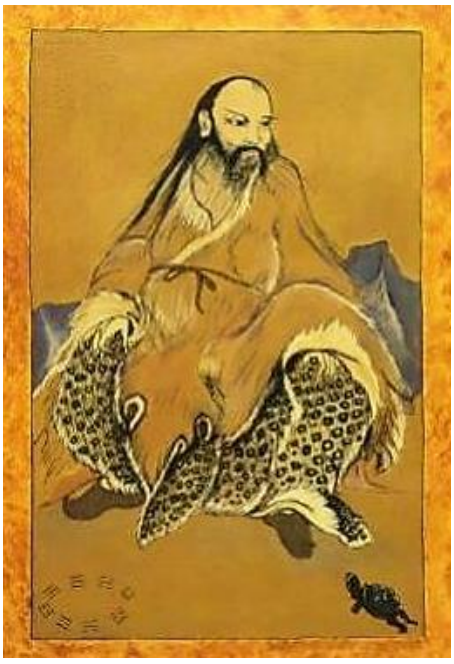
Who was Fu Xi?

Fu Xi is considered the father of Chinese civilisation. This brief study would not be complete without considering this personality, and some more astonishing parallels to Shiva and Parvati.

Fu Xi is considered the father of the Chinese civilisation. He is credited with bringing the concept of marriage to a matriarchal society in which, at that time, men had no responsibility for their offspring. He was the first man to shoulder the responsibility for the care of wife and children, thus initiating the concept of fatherhood and the nuclear family. He is frequently depicted with his wife, Nu Wa, who was worshipped as a goddess.

"In the beginning there was as yet no moral or social order. Men knew their mothers only, not their fathers. When hungry, they searched for food; when satisfied, they threw away the remnants. They devoured their food hide and hair, drank the blood, and clad themselves in skins and rushes. Then came Fu Xi and looked upward and contemplated the images in the heavens, and looked downward and contemplated the occurrences on earth. He united man and wife, regulated the five stages of change, and laid down the laws of humanity. He devised the eight trigrams, in order to gain mastery over the world".— Ban Gu, Baihu Tongyi

"The modern purpose of the Fuxi and Nu Wa story is that it depicts one of the earliest successful examples of spiritual partnership between a man and woman. In the Taoist practices the woman is viewed as an equally powerful partner in achieving spiritual greatness and a more balanced and complete understanding of the universe."



Left: Fu Xi. Right: Fu Xi and his wife Nu Wa, also reminiscent of the Ida and Pingla (masculine and feminine) nadiis or subtle energy channels which traverse the spinal column and kundalinii channel in the body

First Chinese Musical Instrument:

He is also credited with the invention of the *guqin*, the first musical instrument in China, having 7 strings:

He taught the people the skills of domesticating animals, how togrow certain crops, and how to craft certain tools, thus assisting in the transition of the nomadic hunter/gatherer to a settled lifestyle of agriculture and animal husbandry. He is also credited with the invention of the first written Chinese script, and the use of certain plants as medicines, as well as the 8 trigrams used for divination and comprehending the Cosmic order, and the relation of macrocosm with the unit (microcosm).

*Legend says he was a shaman who could tame wild animals by telepathic communication and who could also control the weather patterns. He invented many arts such as fishing, trapping, cooking, the calendar, angular measurement, music and writing.*www.zeigua.com

So comparing these facts with what we have learned about Shiva, and the knowledge that He travelled widely including in China, is it possible that Fu Xi and Shiva are one and the same personality? Or is Fu Xi a distinct personality with a similar narrative? Did Shiva travel himself to China, in the course of his journeying around the world? Or is this the mythology carried by those He trained and sent to various corners of the globe to disseminate His teaching? Or is there no link or relationship whatsoever and the uncanny parallels simply a coincidence and a mystery unsolved?

A Final Word

When I started this modest work, I had no idea of the exciting journey that awaited me. What is emerging is a missing dimension of history which focuses more of the mystical and spiritual awakening evolution of humanity, than the history of empires, wars, religious crusades, politicians, conquerors and kings.

It' is a story that touches deep and subtle connections between peoples and cultures and their trade in the currency of ideas, cosmologies and mystical knowledge as well as material objects and technology. It speaks of their revered and sublime teachers, unexpected clues and sometimes surprises hidden in languages, of humanities' increasing awareness, practices and evolving relations to the Cosmos and thus to the Divine. Here, integration and unity in diversity is the rule, no state, race or region has developed in isolation, thus none can claim superiority. This concept is diametrically opposed to the "isolationist" approach that supposes that each culture grows and develops in isolation. We have, in fact, far more in common that we might imagine. It also reminds us that all truly great civilisations had a rich mystical core which pulsed life blood of a living spirituality (not religion) into the humans who lived in them and lifted them to greater heights of wisdom and understanding, giving birth to timeless works of art, architecture, literature, and a rich heritage of wisdom and culture. It also reminds us that humanity was not always as estranged from the natural environment, the cycles of nature, the plants and animals, as we are at present.

Each topic here is barely touched on and deserves much deeper study and research. It is my hope that in future a team of dedicated researchers will take on, add to, provide substantiation for and correct when necessary, so that we may have sufficiently solid material to begin the much needed transformation of the current "history" we learn in school, to take it to new and more profound and interconnected understanding of our past.

I have not set out to "prove" anything. The work started as a personal exploration that soon became so exciting that I felt compelled to start recording it simply to offer for further research the notion that a common thread and heritage links us all, one that stretches back into deep antiquity. If these chapters fascinate or stimulate the reader to step beyond the Eurocentric model of history, transcend the dismissive blanket concept of "paganism" as a derogatory label slapped on any pre-Abrahamic path to the Divine, and particularly to recognize and appreciate the contributions of Shiva as the first preceptor of human civilization I will feel satisfied that this work has accomplished something worthwhile.

I am grateful for the research of all those whose work has been the basis of the book and particularly to my own spiritual master Shrii Shrii Anandamurti for awakening my interest and curiosity in the historical personality of Shiva and His teachings. This journey has been both awesome and profoundly humbling and I hope to inspire others to take up the baton, and carry this work further to provide a truly integrated and balanced vision of history for future generations.

“Unless we begin to acknowledge the widespread presence of the Shiva-Shakti cult in large parts of the ancient world and make a sincere attempt to understand the vast array of symbolisms associated with this ancient faith, we will continue to concoct a version of history that is illusory, fragmented and ultimately meaningless. “

Bhibu Dev Mishra

“Asia is in everything hugely mapped, immense and grandiose in its motions, and its life-periods are mapped accordingly. Europe lives by centuries, Asia by millenniums. Europe is parceled out in nations, Asia in civilisations.

Sri Aurobindo

A series of articles that examine and reveal the life

And contributions of Shiva

To the major evolutionary shifts of humanity in its ascent

From the darkness of nescience

Towards the perfection of knowledge, truth and consciousness

In its journey towards the Infinite